



AFGHANISTAN REPORT

NO. 48

APRIL 1988



**CRISIS & CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM
THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES
SECTOR F-5/2, P. O. BOX 1173,
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**CRISIS AND CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM (CCAT)
AFGHANISTAN**

**AFGHANISTAN REPORT:
APRIL 1988**

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1. The Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team comprises of leading academicians, strategists, researchers and policy analysts interested in the study of international relations. The members of this team meet periodically in groups; one team is devoted to the study of the Afghan crisis and conflict. In the light of carefully monitored information each group reviews current developments in its respective conflict area, and offers various policy options for consideration. While the Institute of Strategic Studies provides the forum, coordinates research and publishes the findings of the Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team, it does not necessarily share the views expressed by the team members whose participation in this group is in their individual capacity.

2. The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, collation, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all the parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Afghan, Soviet, and other Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Documentation Centre, Afghan Information Centre, the Afghan Islamic Press, and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are aware of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up in the Mujahideen, as present in regular armies.

— Editor

IJAZ S. GILANI
FAZAL-UR-RAHMAN



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ACRONYMS

AAP	=	Agency Afghan Press (Mujahideen).
AAPSO	=	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization.
AAWC	=	All Afghanistan's Women Council.
ADBA	=	Agricultural Development Bank of Afghanistan.
ALA	=	Association of Lawyers of Afghanistan.
APC	=	Armoured Personnel Carrier.
CC	=	Central Committee.
CP	=	Communist Party.
RA	=	Republic of Afghanistan.
DYOA	=	Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan.
HIS	=	Haqiqat-e-Inqilab-e-Saur ('The Truth of the Saur Revolution'), daily newspaper.
HMV	=	Heavy Military Vehicles.
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune.
ICRC	=	International Committee of the Red Cross.
KHAD	=	State Secret Service.
KT	=	The Kabul Times.
LOSPA	=	Local Organs of State Power and Administration.
NF	=	National Front.
NVDP	=	Ningarhar Valley Development Project.
NRP	=	National Reconciliation Policy.
PDPA	=	Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan.
POA	=	Pioneers Organization of Afghanistan.
PSFO	=	Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization.
RC	=	Revolutionary Council.
SAFS	=	Soviet Afghan Friendship Society.
TUA	=	Trade Unions of Afghanistan.
UJA	=	Union of Journalists of Afghanistan.
UNESCO	=	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.
UNGA	=	United Nations General Assembly.
VFA	=	Voice of Free Afghanistan.
VOA	=	Voice of America.
VOG	=	Voice of Germany.
VOIR	=	Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (reportedly based in Iran).
WDS	=	Western Diplomatic Sources.
WHO	=	World Health Organization.
YPO	=	Young Pioneer's Organization.
'Jehad'	=	To strive, struggle, resist, fight against, as an article of Faith. One of the main tenets of Islam.
'Mujahideen'	=	Those who take part in Jihad against oppression and aggression, as an article of faith.
'Jirga'	=	Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Loi Jirga'	=	National Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Afghanis'	=	Afghan Currency.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

The Historical Perspective	..	ISSI Map	
I. The Fourth Afghan War	..	Hasan Akhter Gardezi and Najam Abbas	
1. Summary Perspective	..	..	1
2. Major Military Engagements	..	..	2
3. Provincewise Survey Analysis	..	..	4
4. Psychological Warfare Themes	..	..	28
APPENDICES			
1. Estimate of Losses: Mujahideen Sources	..	..	29
2. Estimate of Losses: Kabul-Moscow Sources	..	..	30
3. Provincewise Distribution of Engagements: Mujahideen Sources	..	..	31
4. Mujahideen Mobile and Immobile Targets and Soviet-Kabul Operations: Mujahideen Sources	..	..	32
5. Provincewise Security Operations and Returnees: Soviet-Kabul Sources	..	..	33
6. Afghan Civilian Human and Material Losses: March 1988	..	..	34
7. Map of Afghanistan	..	..	35
8. Notes	..	..	37
II. The Politico-Economic and Socio-Cultural Development in Afghanistan	..	Fazal-ur-Rahman	
1. Messages, Visits and Meetings	..	..	38
2. Political Developments	..	..	39
3. Nationalities Policy	..	..	50
4. Economy	..	..	50
5. Youth, Education and Health	..	..	58
6. Social and Culture	..	..	62

THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



I.— THE FOURTH AFGHAN WAR

1 — SUMMARY PERSPECTIVE (see map Appendix 7)

Mujahideen sources reported 426 incidents in 25 of the 30 Afghan provinces during March 1988. While the geographical scope of the war did not much change, as compared with the previous month(s), there indeed was a perceptible rise in the combat frequency.

A careful perusal of certain statistical indicators in this monthly monitor would indicate a proportional rise in human and material losses inflicted on Soviet-Kabul forces as Mujahideen attacked a large number of fixed and mobile targets in February and March. Similarly a sizeable number of Kabul regime troops defected to the Mujahideen during the period for which information trickled through in March.

A total of 426 military engagements comprised of 78 Mujahideen strikes on mobile targets and 227 strikes against immobile targets. Soviet-Kabul forces conducted at least 65 air and 56 ground strikes against Mujahideen fixed positions or mobile groups.

The highest intensity of conflict was reported from Qandahar, Hilmand and Kabul provinces. Intensive fighting took place in Paktiya, Ningarhar and Parwan. Kunar, Wardak and Herat witnessed sizeable fighting.

A noteworthy feature of March was that the Soviet-Kabul forces were passive, more or less, in Herat and Farah provinces in the south-west, and Nimruz province in the south. Mujahideen sources did not report any serious air, or ground, Soviet-Kabul operation in the ten northern provinces bordering the Soviet Union. By and large, it appeared that Soviet-Kabul forces were on the defensive. And they were keeping their activity below a certain level.

The Mujahideen were particularly active in Qandahar, Kabul, Baghlan, Herat and Wardak provinces.

Urban conflict was witnessed in and around 16 provincial capitals, including the four major Afghan cities, i.e., Jalalabad, Qandahar, Herat and Kabul.

Exchange of Prisoners

Several cases of exchange of prisoners among Mujahideen and Soviet-Kabul authorities were reported in February and March. One of such exchanges, involving a Soviet army officer (Christinev) took place

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad, in the preparation of this part of the monthly report.

near Qandahar prison on February 15.

On February 27, a Soviet wireless operator, Alexander Propowesh, was exchanged with four Mujahideen near Torkham in Ningarhar province.

A Soviet officer who was captured by Mujahideen on February 8, in Balkh province was exchanged for 15 Mujahideen.

Bomb Blasts

Between mid-February to mid-March, a number of explosions occurred in Kabul. A bomb went off near the Soviet Embassy in Darul Aman. Another explosion took place in a civilian bus in the same area. On March 8 a blast took place in the Education Ministry in Kabul.

On March 11, a building housing PDPA offices in Jalalabad city was rocked by an explosion. On March 15, a bomb exploded inside a cinema hall in Khost town. The same day another blast took place in a police station in Paktiya province. On March 23, a bomb exploded in Mazar city near the Pashtun Tajarati Bank.

A time bomb exploded inside a cinema hall in Herat city. A number of Kabul troops were killed in the explosion.

Defections

Over 400 Afghan troops defected to Mujahideen in February and March. Sizeable defections took place in Qandahar and Parwan provinces. Defections were also reported from Paktika, Paktiya, Ningarhar and Samangan provinces.

In a rare incident a Soviet soldier, Mir Ahmedov, joined the Mujahideen in Chah-Ab area of Takhar province in early March. He is from Kulyab area of the Tajik republic.

2 — MAJOR MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS

Qandahar

Mujahideen were active against fixed military positions of Soviet-Kabul troops in Qandahar province in February and March 1988. They attacked security posts at Shor Andam near the Qandahar airbase as also Karzak and, Kampani in Maiwand district. In Maiwand an ammunition depot was destroyed.

Panjwai district witnessed fierce clashes between the Mujahideen and the Soviet-Kabul troops over the past two months. Regime troops called for reinforcements, but while they were on the way Mujahideen attacked them at Kohi and Qala-e-Surkh.

Ultimately, around March 20, the Mujahideen liberated Panjwai

and set up their own administration in the district. Mujahideen also hit a number of other military targets in Qandahar city. Among them was a KHAD office and, security posts and the Mechanical School.

Likewise, the Mujahideen reportedly killed an "advisor" and a "colonel" of the Soviet army in a rocket attack on Arghandab district offices. In Arghandab they blasted an ammunition dump.

Mujahideen attacked military installations in the border town of Spinbuldak in late March.

Hilmand

Delayed reports from Hilmand say that in order to wipeout Mujahideen positions in the rural areas of Hilmand province, Soviet-Kabul troops were drawn from Kabul, Lashkargah and Shindand. They also set up a number of security posts in Sangeen, Kajaki, Qilaegaz and Adam Khan.

In mid February, Mujahideen started attacks on these security posts. Mujahideen attacked 2 security posts in Khusak Aab on February 27. They captured some security posts in Kajaki area.

In the last week of March, Mujahideen attacked four security posts in Sangeen district. A number of Kabul troops surrendered to the Mujahideen. Mujahideen claimed that the sub divisional town had once again come under their control. Mujahideen fired mortars and missiles on the airport and PDPA headquarters in Lashkargah on March 21. Mujahideen attacked an ammunition depot near Lashkargah on March 24.

Paktiya

Mujahideen increased pressure on the Soviet-Kabul forces near Khost town by attacking security posts at Zarmanki, Toor Ghar, Tenda Sar, Chawni and Khost town itself from February 8-20.

In early March, Soviet built planes bombarded Mujahideen positions in Bari and Khost areas. Mujahideen cleared Soviet made mines from Mandozai, Yaqubi and Anzargi and drew closer to Khost. They fired rockets at Khost airstrip. (March 2).

On March 4, Afghan airforce dropped bombs in Jani Khel area inflicting losses on civilian population and property.

On March 13 and 14 Russian-built planes bombarded Mujahideen positions in Jihadwal, Lakan, Mani Kandau, Zhawar and Bari areas.

Mujahideen captured a key post after fierce fighting in Toor Ghar area of Khost district on March 22. They made rocket attacks at a number of Soviet-Kabul positions in Khost area on March 23 and 27.

Soviet built jets bombarded Ghulam Khan, Raghbela and Zhawar

areas of Pakiya province.

Ningarhar

Mujahideen attacked Hesarak and killed a number of militia troops and Khad personnel. In Ghani Khel, Babra Tangi, Nazian and Sair Kali areas, Mujahideen clashed with Soviet Kabul troops.

On March 10, Afghan troops were despatched to establish security posts at Haska Mena, Rudat and Shinwar.

Later the Mujahideen attacked security posts in Kot Ghani Khel and a military camp in Lalpura area of Shinwar. Soviet built jets resorted to bombardment of civilian areas.

Kabul

Mujahideen attacked 28 immobile targets in Kabul province. These included: A bridge and a transformer near Naglu dam, security posts near Qargha garrison and security posts in Shakardara garrison at Chinari, military positions in Kabul city, Qargah, Kampani and Arghandi, garrison at Speena Tana, security post at Tangi Abresham, Maktab security post near Sarubi and security post at Mir Bacha Kot.

In Kabul city: a post near Kabul TV station, a military camp in Bala Hisar, Shehr Nau colony near the Presidential Palace and installations at Kabul airport also came under Mujahideen attacks.

Mujahideen reportedly killed the "Head of Russian cooperatives Programme" alongwith a member of the Afghan "Parliament" at Mir Bacha kot on March 6.

Parwan

Mujahideen continued attacks on mobile detachments/convoys of Soviet-Kabul troops plying on the Salang highway. During an attack in Sufian area Mujahideen hit at the residence of PDPA General Secretary, Asif Nabard.

3 — PROVINCEWISE SURVEY ANALYSIS

Provinces Bordering Pakistan

Nimruz

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen stormed a military camp in Zaranji on March 12, killing 8 Soviet troops. A tank and 2 armoured vehicles were hit with missiles. Three security posts were also destroyed in Chaghan Sore.

On March 14, Mujahideen attacked 2 military convoys near Khash

as a result of which 2 tanks were destroyed and a number of Soviet-Kabul troops were killed and injured.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen attacked a Soviet-Kabul convoy in Nimruz province. Besides killing fourteen enemy troops they destroyed three Soviet-Afghan tanks and armoured vehicles. (News Urdu: March, 28, 1988).

Hilmand

Mujahideen sources: 22 February: Mujahideen fire rockets on 2 military posts in Khoshak Aaba. A tank and an armoured car destroyed. An estimated 11 Soviet-Kabul troops killed. Others fled abandoning their positions to Mujahideen.

23 February: Mujahideen attack military convoy near Nehr-e-Siraj killing 13 troops. An oil tanker and a truck destroyed.

On March 8, Mujahideen attacked a Soviet army camp near Lashkargarh, killing 10 Soviet troops. On March 20 they blasted an arms and ammunition depot in Nad Ali. On March 24, they claimed to have captured Sangeen, an important subdivisional headquarter.

VOA: The Mujahideen commander Latif Ahmad Farzade (ph) reports from Hilmand province that the Mujahideen clashed at several places with the Afghan Government forces led by the Soviet troops. The communist forces attacked the strong positions of the Mujahideen in the northern part of the province in the month of January. The Mujahideen claim that they repulsed the communist forces in the middle of February. Mr. Akhmud Farzade, however, says that the Afghan Government forces succeeded in recapturing the Kazake area on 24th February. The Afghan communist forces which were spearheading the attack lost their fifteen tanks as a result of the rocket attacks and mines planted by the Mujahideen. There has been heavy bombardment by the Soviet planes in the area. The Mujahideen claim that they shot down one helicopter and one jet plane on the 23rd February. They also claim to have captured fourteen Afghan soldiers. (Radio Report Urdu: March 3, 1988).

In southern Afghanistan, the rebel forces have pushed Soviet-backed Government troops out of the entire Sangeen district after fierce fighting. Irfan Ghazi in Islamabad cabled the following report:

The Afghan resistance sources in Pakistan's border city of Quetta say over two thousand Mujahideen participated in a big offensive near the Sangeen district of Hilmand province last week. The force was made up of units from the National Islamic Front, National Liberation Front, Herkate Inqilabe Islami and the Jamat-e-Islami. The sources say the Mujahideen overran 33 communist

militia posts in two days of fierce attacks, that started on March 21st. The report, not independently confirmed, claimed 220 militia troops were killed and 12 were captured when they tried to escape. They say the Mujahideen lost only 3 killed and 14 wounded. The sources say the material captured by the Mujahideen included one tank, one truck and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition.

The Mujahideen commanders in the area say no communist base or position is now left in the district. They say ten days before launching the offensive the Mujahideen planned and executed the destruction of the nearby field base of the communist armoured unit, which could have provided vital support to militia posts in the district during the later attack.

According to reports, the Mujahideen planted anti tank mines in the desert area of Hyderabad, some 20 kilometres in the north-west of Sangeen district town. They also fired rockets at a nearby base. The sources say that the tanks and trucks patrolling the area over ran the mines and were destroyed. (March 27, 1988).

Afghan rebels say, atleast 55 villagers and resistance fighters have been killed in recent Soviet bombing raids in southern Afghanistan. The unconfirmed reports from Mujahideen sources based in Pakistan say the air raids began March 23rd as the rebel forces ousted Soviet troops from the sangeen region of the Hilmand province. They said dozens of houses and most irrigation channels have been destroyed. (News English: March 31, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Responding to announcements of President Najibullah, an armed group of 15 persons decided to support the policy of national reconciliation in Hilmand province yesterday. According to a report of Bakhtar News Agency at a gathering the leader of the group pledged to extend cooperation in implementation of the national reconciliation policy and restoration of law and order in the area. (March 3, 1988).

KNT: A group of terrorists belonging to the extremist group of Gulbuddin who had infiltrated into Hilmand province from Pakistan was arrested with the help of the residents before they could commit any destruction. Two bags of explosives kept for staging blasts in Hilmand province were seized from the houses of two leaders of the group, Mohammad Sharif and Shafee. (BIA). (March 5, 1988).

Qandahar

Mujahideen sources: 18 February: Mujahideen attack 11 security posts in Qandahar city, killing 50 and capturing 20 soldiers. Mujahideen

seize a quantity of arms and ammunition.

Mujahideen shoot down an aircraft in Daman district.

19 February: Mujahideen kill 21 Soviet-Kabul troops in Qandahar city.

23 February: Mujahideen kill 16 Soviet-Kabul troops in Arghandab.

27 February: Mujahideen attack a military column on Herat Qandahar highway.

5 March: Mujahideen attack Brigade headquarter in Qandahar city.

7 March: Mujahideen attack Soviet-Kabul troops in Qandahar city, hitting 2 tanks.

9 March: Sixty six regime troops join Mujahideen following an ambush between Panjwai and Qandahar.

12 March: Severe fighting continues for control on Panjwai district. About 100 Soviet-Kabul soldiers have been killed and 17 tanks and 6 other military vehicles destroyed during the last one month in this area. More than 150 Afghan army soldiers joined the ranks of Mujahideen.

19 March: Soviet planes bombard Panjwai and adjoining rural areas.

20 March: Mujahideen ambush a Soviet-Kabul mobile force searching for Mujahideen and sympathizers in Qandahar city. An armoured vehicle and a jeep destroyed and 6 soldiers killed.

Mujahideen claim seizure of Panjwai town after prolonged fighting.

21 March: Mujahideen fire missiles at the army centre at Shah Walikot. A number of bunkers and vehicles destroyed and soldiers killed.

22 March: Mujahideen attack Soviet-Kabul positions in Spin Boldak area. A tank, 2 other vehicles and an artillery piece destroyed.

23 March: A Soviet army colonel and a civilian adviser killed during Mujahideen attack on "administrative" offices in Arghandab district. Some buildings destroyed and damaged.

24 March: Mujahideen renew attacks on security posts near Spin Boldak. Twelve soldiers killed.

27 March: Mujahideen attack central jail in Qandahar and secure release of 29 'political' prisoners. One of the jail walls was demolished with rockets and missiles.

VIRA: Another report from Qandahar province says that 100 troops of the Kabul communist regime joined the ranks of the Mujahideen in Mohallajat area Qandahar city. (March 23, 1988).

Afghan Mujahideen launched an attack on Qandahar jail on March 1 as a result of which 29 prisoners were freed from the prison.

The report says that the Mujahideen rocketed the prison and caused heavy damage to the jail premises. (March 23, 1988).

Radio Tehran: Another report from Afghanistan says that in an attack on a Soviet military base in Qandahar, the Afghan Mujahideen killed a number of Soviet-Kabul troops and also destroyed an ammunition depot. (March 14, 1988).

Reports from Qandahar province say that aircraft of the communist forces have carried out bombing of many parts of the province recently. (23 March 1988).

Two helicopters of the Kabul regime were shot down by the Mujahideen while attacking the positions of the Mujahideen in Qandahar province. (26 March 1988).

BBC: At a time when negotiations for the settlement of the Afghan conflict are underway in Geneva and Washington, fighting is continuing between Mujahideen and Government troops in Afghanistan. The Afghan Mujahideen claim that they have gained control over a district close to Qandahar city and there are also reports of fierce fighting in Paktiya province. George Arney from Islamabad:—

Fighting is continuing for the last six weeks in this district of Qandahar in which hundreds of Mujahideen are engaged in attempts to oust 300 Government troops from a security post. Mujahideen say that they have occupied a strategic peak besides killing 20 soldiers and capturing thirty others. The Mujahideen have also claimed destroying or capturing 8 tanks. Fighting is also reportedly continuing in Paktiya. (23 March 1988).

VOA: There are reports that fierce fighting has been continuing for the past two weeks in the southern provinces of Afghanistan, Qandahar and Hilmand. Irfan Ghazi sent this report from Islamabad:

The Afghan Mujahideen made a devastating attack on the headquarters of the Afghan secret police in Qandahar city and killed 22 policemen. In Pakistan's border city of Quetta the Mujahideen sources said that the guard posted on the headquarters of the Secret police helped the Mujahideen in carrying out their attacks which took place on February the 26th. They said that among the 22 killed there were two police officers. The Mujahideen also lost two of their jawans in this attack. Eight Mujahideen were injured. These sources, however, say that they have captured valuable documents and arms and ammunition. But those reports could not be confirmed from independent sources. (3, March 1988).

Quoting sources in Afghanistan, the diplomats say Soviet forces have been stockpiling a large amount of ammunition, fuel and food in

Qandahar, the country's second largest city. Diplomats say the build up and the construction of defensive positions around large cities indicates that major rebel attacks are expected once Soviet forces are withdrawn. (8 March 1988).

The sources of Afghan Mujahideen in Pakistan say that the Mujahideen shelled at the Qandahar airport in the south of Afghanistan on 8th March and destroyed four Soviet-made MIG Jet aircraft two helicopters and three tanks.

The Afghan Islamic Press say that 9 Soviet and 18 Afghan troops were killed or injured during the attack. Besides, 5 Mujahideen were also reported to have been killed during this attack. No reliable sources have confirmed the report. (News Urdu: 13 March 1988).

The Afghan Mujahideen have captured a district headquarters near Qandahar. Meanwhile, reports of fighting have also come from other parts of the country. Irfan Ghazi reports from Islamabad:

After fierce fighting for about two months, the Mujahideen captured the important town of Panjwai in the southern Afghan province of Qandahar. Besides, the Mujahideen also destroyed a base of Afghanistan's communist force near the garrison of Khost. The reports about the capture of Panjwai by the Mujahideen have been given by two different source of the Mujahideen. The Peshawar based Afghan Islamic Press quotes Commander Haji Mohammad who is present on the war front as having said that in a three day decisive battle which lasted from 16th to 18th March at least 21 communist soldiers were killed, whereas five Mujahideen lost their lives and five others were wounded. Commander Haji Mohammad says that ultimately when the Mujahideen captured the headquarters of the communist army in Panjwai on 18th March. They got a sizeable quantity of arms and ammunition in booty. They also captured eight tanks.

The messages of several other Mujahideen commanders which have been received in Quetta say that all the eight tanks are in working order. Besides the Mujahideen also seized one hundred sixty five other big and small arms.

Panjwai is a district headquarter nearly 25 kilometres south east of Qandahar. Intense fighting has been going on there for the past eight years. This is the first occasion that the Mujahideen have been successful in capturing it. These sources say that generally the strength of Government forces at this place is three hundred men. But when fighting gets intensified reinforcement is sent from Qandahar. One such reinforcement came on 21st February. After this there was fighting for about a week. Eight men of the communist army and the militia

were killed in this fighting. Among them were also the district Governor and the militia commander. (Radio Report English: 20 March 1988).

KNT: During past seven weeks, 52 families including 281 countrymen returned home. The repatriates were transported to their native places in Kabul, Badakhshan, Qandahar and Ghazni provinces, after receiving necessary assistance of the State Committee for Repatriates. (5 March 1988).

Welcoming the peace statement of Najibullah, President of Republic of Afghanistan, a 250 members armed opposition group in Daman district of Qandahar province joined the process of national reconciliation.

Leader of the armed group Ahmad Rashid expressed the group's support for the NR policy and statement of President Najibullah.

Members of the group were organized in the tribal unit of the Daman district. (13 March 1988).

Zabul

Mujahideen sources: During an attack on Soviet-Kabul positions in Zabul province on 22 March Mujahideen killed 20 troops and destroyed a multibarrel rocket launcher, as well as a jeep. Mujahideen lost 3 killed and 5 others were injured.

VOA: Reports from south eastern Zabul province indicate that the Mujahideen inflicted heavy losses on a Afghan military post near the Pakistan border. Sources in Quetta say the Mujahideen fired rockets in the Darwazagai area, about twenty kilometres from the Pakistan border, on 22 March and destroyed a military post there, where mortar and artillery guns were installed. (Radio Report English: 27 March 1988).

Ghazni

Mujahideen sources: 4 March: Mujahideen attack Soviet-Kabul post in Shahr-e-Khona.

9 March: A "Russian" army officer was killed when the jeep he was travelling in hit a land mine in Rukha.

12 March: Mujahideen killed 3 female KHAD (Secret Police) officers, along with a male officer, in Ghazni city. KHAD officers were searching houses for Mujahideen and their supporters.

VIRA: A report from Ghazni says that a military convoy of the enemy troops was ambushed by the Mujahideen in Safedabad (ph) area, killing a number of enemy troops. Fifteen enemy troops were captured. (News Pushto: 25 March 1988).

Paktika

Mujahideen sources: 14-19 March: A large body of Soviet-Kabul troops, supported by a Battalion of the Russian "Commandos", advancing from Ghazni to Urgan were intercepted by Mujahideen between Ghazni and Urgan in the Parwan area on March 14. Mujahideen launched a vicious artillery assault on them from all sides.

By March 19, 20 tanks and armoured vehicles had been destroyed and 300 Russian Kabul troops either killed or wounded.

Russian "Commandos" suffered heavy losses and retreated to Sharana, provincial centre of Paktika.

On March 20, in Urgan district, Mujahideen captured two mortars and one 75mm cannon. Thirty five Kabul army soldiers joined the Mujahideen.

The Mujahideen also attacked a radar station in Urgan district. Ten Kabul army soldiers were killed. Twenty heavy machine guns, 15 shells, 20 rockets, 30 rifles and 600 litres of diesel oil were taken. One post was destroyed.

In other attacks in the same area on March 21-23 Mujahideen killed 20 Soviet-Kabul troops and destroyed 2 tanks.

On March 24, Mujahideen wiped out two vehicles of a military convoy heading towards Sharana.

Radio Bangladesh: Reports received from Islamabad say that Soviet and Afghan Government forces have succeeded in ending the three year old siege of the Afghan Mujahideen on Urgan city in eastern Afghanistan. Reports emanating from Mujahideen sources say that the Soviet and Afghan forces succeeded in freeing Urgan last week. Fighting is, however, still continuing. (News Urdu: 24 March 1988).

BBC: According to western diplomats, the Mujahideen have besieged Urgan town in eastern Afghanistan. Nine Afghan army units are engaged in clearing the highway between Ghazni and Urgan but the Mujahideen claim that they have inflicted heavy losses on the Soviet-Afghan forces on the highway. (Current Affairs: 23 March 1988).

VOA: In Afghanistan, a Soviet-led convoy has again managed to get through to a besieged city in the south eastern part of the country which had not received ground supplies for over 3 years. But as we hear in this report from VOA's John Shultz in Islamabad, Mujahideen resistance forces inflicted heavy losses on the convoy during its journey:

The Soviet led convoy started south for the city of Urgan from its staging point in Gardez more than one month ago. Mujahideen sources in Peshawar said the convoy consisted of over 600 trucks and tanks and it moved with heavy helicopter, jet fighter, bomber air support. The Mujahideen units harassed the

convoy in the early stages, that is, starting by 40 kilometres from its destination in the narrow and difficult terrain that is natural for ambushes. The convoy ran into major problems. The Mujahideen units hit hard which forced the convoy to a crawl and to a standstill at times. It did not reach Urgun in Paktika province until March 19th. Mujahideen commanders say they counted 42 trucks and tanks completely destroyed and that they killed 83 Afghan and some Soviet soldiers. The commanders report losing 13 Mujahideen killed and 25 wounded. They say that now that the convoy is in Urgun city, they are hitting it everyday with rockets, mortars and heavy machine guns. They also say they can inflict on the convoy more trouble on its return journey. (Radio Report English: 23 March, 1988).

Paktiya

Mujahideen sources: 1 March: Soviet-made aircraft heavily bombard Mujahideen positions around Khost.

2 March: Mujahideen hit Khost cantonment and airport with rocket and mortar fire.

Mujahideen hit a helicopter in Jaji district.

13 March: Mujahideen shot down a fighter bombing Jihadwal centre (of Mujahideen) with a missile.

14 March: Soviets continue aerial bombardment of Mujahideen positions in Mani Kandau, Zhawar and Bari.

15 March: Mujahideen attack Soviet-Kabul positions in Jaji Maidan. A tank destroyed.

Mujahideen explode a bomb in a cinema hall in Khost city, killing or injuring 30 persons 'mostly troops and party men'.

20 March: Mujahideen capture 3 Soviet-Kabul security posts in Zarmani Ghar area. Fifty Kabuli soldiers captured.

22 March: Mujahideen overrun an important Soviet-Kabul security post in Tor Ghar area. This should help tighten the siege of Khost city and cantonment.

23 March: Mujahideen fire rockets on Khost garrison.

Eight Soviet built aircraft bombard Mujahideen positions in Zhawar, Ghulam Khan and Raghbela areas.

27 March: Mujahideen fire rockets on Khost cantonment hitting a helicopter and a jeep. A radar post also neutralized.

VIRA: Afghan Mujahideen source report that fighting between the Soviet-Kabul troops and the Mujahideen has intensified in Khost area. Heavy losses in men and material have been inflicted on the enemy inside the Khost military base. (22 March 1988).

A jet fighter plane of the Kabul regime, which was flying over the Mujahideen positions in Paktiya province was shot down on March 13. All the crew members were killed. (25 March, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Mujahideen captured 3 military posts of the Soviet-Kabul forces near Khost city of Paktiya province. During these operations, Mujahideen captured 120 Soviet-Kabul troops along with their arms. A large area of Paktiya province has come under the control of the Mujahideen after capturing these three posts. (News Urdu: 28 March, 1988).

Radio Bangladesh: Reports from Islamabad say that after fierce fighting, the Afghan Mujahideen have captured a position in Zarmanki near Khost.

Four Mujahideen and many Afghan troops were killed in the fighting.

Later, the Soviet-Kabul forces launched a counter attack at a military base south of Khost which was repulsed by the Mujahideen. (21 March, 1988).

KNT: A terrorist group was recently arrested in Zurmat district of Paktiya province.

The peace loving inhabitants and the national reconciliation commission of the district had requested the armed forces to arrest the group who sought to disturb the peaceful life of the people and seize their ammunition caches.

The report says that ten terrorists were caught with their arms and ammunition. (BIA, KNT, 8 March, 1988).

Ningarhar

Mujahideen sources: 27 February: Four Resistance Fighters (including a commander) were exchanged with a Soviet prisoner of war near the border town of Torkham. The Mujahideen commander was named Sardar Agha, 26, and the Russian wireless operator Alexander Propowesh, 26. The exchange took place some 6 kilometers from Torkham while a local truce was enforced. Propowesh had been taken prisoner in Logar last year.

6 March: Mujahideen frustrate a Soviet-Kabul offensive continuing in Ningarhar over the "past two weeks". Over this period they captured, or wiped out several security posts newly set up by Soviet-Kabul forces in Ghani Khel, Babra Tangi and Nazian areas. About 100 Government troops were killed. Serious clashes took place in Surah Auri and Sair Kali. Several tanks, armoured vehicles and trucks were hit. On Mujahideen side, 2 group commanders and 3 others were killed and 20 injured.

16 March: Mujahideen explode a bomb in a Government office in Jalalabad.

19 March: Mujahideen fire mortar shells on a military camp in Lalpura, Shinwar subdivision east of Jalalabad. Two tank destroyed.

Mujahideen fired rockets on targets in Loe Daka. A security post destroyed.

Soviet-made planes bombard Lalpura area.

21 March: Twenty three Soviet-Kabul troops killed and a tank destroyed during Mujahideen attack on a military post near Jalalabad.

24 March: Torkham-Jalalabad highway closed following intensified fighting between Mujahideen and Soviet-Kabul forces.

VIRA: In Ningarhar province, the Mujahideen repulsed a heavy attack of the aggressors and compelled them to retreat last week. (News Pushto: 1 March, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The reports said that the Afghan Mujahideen attacked a base of Soviet-Kabul forces in Lalpura area of Ningarhar province killing many enemy troops and destroying one of their tanks. (News Urdu: 26 March, 1988).

KNT: Last week, five more groups consisting of 155 armed men gave up hostilities and joined the side of people's government in Enjil district of Herat, Goshta district of Ningarhar and in Hilmand province. They established tribal detachments in their regions, defending the new policy and peace. (9 March, 1988).

A terrorist group that had infiltrated into the country from the other side of the border to disturb life in Haska Mena district of Ningarhar province was suppressed last Wednesday by the tribal forces with the cooperation of the local people.

On the request of the national reconciliation commission and local people, the tribal forces laid siege and asked the extremist group to surrender but the later opened fire. In the ensuing exchange, a number of extremists were killed and large quantity of weapons and ammunition, including three rocket launchers, were seized by the tribal forces. (BIA, 12 March, 1988).

Kunar

Mujahideen sources: 28 February: Mujahideen shoot down a helicopter near Asadabad, provincial headquarter, of Kunar.

29 February: Mujahideen shoot down a helicopter near Sara village.

(Earlier reports said that Soviet made aircraft were bombarding Mujahideen positions along the road leading from Jalalabad (Ningarhar) to Asadabad (Kunar) and onwards to Usmara and Barrikot. This, the

reports said, was probably to neutralize Mujahideen bunkers on the Jalalabad-Asadabad road before an expected largescale Soviet-Kabul land offensive in Kunar province).

13 March: Mujahideen fire rockets on security posts in Aragi and Tanar.

15 March: Soviet-made aircraft bombard Maya and Shalai.

19 March: Mujahideen attack a military convoy advancing towards sub-divisional town of Surkani. Five vehicles, including tanks destroyed and 35 soldiers killed.

20. March: Clashes continue between Mujahideen and Soviet-Kabul forces in Kunar province.

Radio Tehran: Mujahideen have shot down two helicopters of the Soviet forces in Kunar province. The helicopters were shot down on 29th February and 1st March, when they were shelling the strongholds of Mujahideen in Asadabad and Para (ph) areas of Kunar province. (14 March, 1988).

KNT: A girl was killed and two others injured and six houses destroyed, as the extremists attacked with heavy weapons residential houses in Pashad village of Sarkani district of Kunar province.

The unforgivable crime once again exposed the real essence of the extremists. (BIA, 7 March, 1988).

Provinces Bordering Soviet Union

Badakhshan (also bordering Pakistan)

Mujahideen sources: The Soviet troops have strengthened their positions in Faizabad, Badakhshan province recently and they have transported a huge quantity of arms and ammunition to their military base in that city. The Soviet troops appear to be preparing to launch an attack on liberated area of Kishan in Badakhshan province which is currently under Mujahideen's control.

Takhar

Mujahideen sources: A Tajik Soviet army officer, Ahmadov defected to the Mujahideen on March 3 in Takhar province after he killed his commander. He crossed the "Ammu river to join the Mujahideen".

The Mujahideen captured 70 Kabuli troops in Yangi Qila area of Takhar province during the operations in the second week of March. In the course of operations two Soviet helicopters were also downed.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen are reported to have attacked Soviet-Afghan military posts in Takhar province on March 21.

Besides killing 15 Soviet-Kabul men, they also inflicted sizeable losses of property to the enemy. (News Urdu: 31 March, 1988).

Kunduz

Mujahideen sources: 24 February: Attack Kabul regime troops in Imam Saheb district.

8 March: Mujahideen attack security post in Chardara.

KNT: During the past weeks five more armed groups consisting of 333 men led by Mohammad Ismael, Baz Mohammad, Abdul Samad, Salehjan and Abdul Hakim gave up hostilities in Hazrat-i-Imam and Archi districts of Kunduz and Qaisar district of Faryab.

This enabled 950 unarmed countrymen who lived in mountains to return to their houses in the villages. Simultaneously, over 20 villages of Kunduz and Faryab provinces came peacefully under people's power and over 40,000 villagers began a peaceful life. Tribal detachments including supporters of opposition have been formed. (5 March, 1988).

A large quantity of medicines valued at 160,000 Afgs. which were being smuggled to Kunduz province was seized by the officials of the anti-crime department of the Ministry of Interior. The smuggler was arrested and the medicines impounded by Kabul Customs. (13 March, 1988).

Baghlan

Mujahideen sources: 25 February: Mujahideen kill 5 Soviet-Kabul soldiers and destroy 2 tanks during an attack on Qila Gai on Kabul-Pul-e-Khumri road.

26 February: Mujahideen attack security post at Qarya Laqi Ha, killing a Kabuli soldier and injuring 4.

On March 1, Mujahideen fired rockets and missiles at military installations at Pul-e-Khumri. Among others a 'booster' and a 'bread factory' were hit and many buildings caught fire. On March 2, Mujahideen killed a high KHAD official in Baghlan city's industrial suburb.

(The commanders and Advisory Council (Majlis-e-Shoora) members from 8 Afghan provinces — Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Balkh, Jozjan, Samangan and Faryab — at a meeting held in the liberated territory of Nehr-in (Baghlan) on March 7, resolved to continue the Jihad until the whole of Afghanistan has achieved Independence.)

Mujahideen attacked a supply convoy near Khinjan town on Salang highway on March 8. The convoy consisted of more than 100 vehicles. Two tanks and a heavy vehicle were hit, but the convoy was able to push through under heavy artillery and air cover. On March 9,

Mujahideen captured a security post in Turrah Khal area.

19-21 March: Mujahideen during a operation spread over 48 hours captured 12 security posts and liberated the territory from Alaudin Qala to Gardab.

They also captured 60 Kalashnikov rifles, three 82 mm mortars, 1 Doshaka, Greenov and 2 heavy machine guns. They also seized 200,000 Kalashnikovs bullets, 50,000 Doshka bullets, 400 mortar rounds, and two R-108 wireless sets.

Three tanks were destroyed, 20 Russian Kabul troops were killed. Fifty two militiamen gave themselves up to the Mujahideen.

On March 21 Mujahideen made a rocket assault on Soviet-Kabul troops near Baghlan city as result of which 17 troops were killed.

On March 26, Mujahideen attacked a dam and electric station in Pul-e-Khumri area. In this operation 7 troops were killed.

On March 2, Mujahideen killed "provincial secretary of KHAD" in Baghlan city's industrial area.

On March 5, they captured "an office-bearer of Khalq faction"—Engineer Mohammad Yaqub—while he was heading towards the Industrial Area of Baghlan city.

On March 7, a Russian convoy was attacked by Mujahideen between Hairatan and Pul-e-Khumri. A tank and a tanker over destroyed.

On March 9, Mujahideen captured a security post in Turrah Khel.

On March 20, Mujahideen repulsed Soviet-Kabul troops from Gardab. Eighteen Soviet-Kabul troops were killed and 25 captured.

On March 21, Mujahideen fired rockets on Soviet-Kabul troops near Baghlan city.

On March 22, Mujahideen attacked Karkar mineral area, killing 11 regime soldiers. Between 21 and 23, Mujahideen captured an area of 30 kilometres, from Allauddin to Darband.

On March 26, Mujahideen attacked a dam and electric station in Pul-e-Khumri.

Radio Tehran: In their continued resistance against the Soviet-Kabul troops, Muslim Afghan revolutionaries carried out successful operations against the communists last week. During these operations a number of communist troops were killed and heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy. The Afghan Mujahideen mounted an attack against an enemy base in Baghlan province last week, killing six troops and capturing four others. (News Urdu: 9 March, 1988).

Reports from Afghanistan say that the military post of Gurdab (ph) area was captured by the Afghan revolutionaries after a clash with the Kabul forces on both sides of Salang highway on March 21st.

During clash, the Mujahideen also killed eighteen communists and arrested twenty five enemy troops and captured a large quantity of military hardware. (26 March, 1988).

KNT: Twenty eight families consisting of 94 members recently returned from Pakistan to their native places in Baghlan and Ningarhar province. (BIA, *KNT*: 3

Samangan

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen conducted a daring attack on the 516 battalion of Deh Dadi division deployed in Aibak, headquarters of Samangan province bordering on the Soviet Union, on February 20. An ammunition depot was blasted and adjoining buildings caught fire which continued burning for a whole night. During the confusion thus created, 30 Kabul army conscripts crossed over to the Mujahideen.

During the "third week of March " Mujahideen attacked Soviet-Kabul positions inside the Aibak city, killing atleast 10 troops and capturing another 15.

VIRA: Mujahideen killed or wounded a number of communist troops and captured 26 of them during a number of successful operations in Samangan province. (News Pushto: 8 March, 1988).

Radio Tehran: In Samangan province, Afghan Mujahideen killed a number of communist soldiers and arrested 26 others. (News Urdu: 1 March, 1988).

Balkh

Radio Tehran: In a surprise attack on regime's stronghold in Dehswar, Mujahideen captured the post and took prisoner 34 soldiers. Eight militiamen who resisted were killed.

The arms and ammunition seized from the post included: 2 mortars, 2 Dschk, 42 different types of machine guns and AK-47s and 16 boxes of hand grenades. (15 March, 1988).

Jozjan

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen captured 5 security posts in Aqcha district after 4 days of fighting on February 4, according to a delayed report. More than 30 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed or wounded.

KNT: Acting on the demand of the commission for national reconciliation and local residents, a 34 man armed extremist group that disturbed the peaceful life of the people was arrested recently by the security forces in Jozjan province. (*KNT*: 10 March, 1988).

Faryab

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen attacked an armoured unit near Shirin Taghab town on March 17. During the fighting, ten Soviet troops, including three officers were killed and 7 Mujahideen martyred. The same day, the Mujahideen struck at a mobile force near head-quarter Maimana, as a result of which 2 regime troops were killed and 5 others injured. (31 March, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Another 200 man armed group, led by Muhammad Esmail, gave up yesterday in Qaysar District, Faryab province. The group announced its readiness to join the national reconciliation policy, following a 420 man armed group that earlier came to the Government's side.

The report adds that Brigadier General Ulomi, head of the Armed Forces Department of the PDPA Central Committee, spoke at a meeting on this occasion. He shed light on the humane national reconciliation policy. In particular, he discussed the first year gains of this policy, and the statement by Najibullah, President of Afghanistan. (Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 23 February, 1988).

KNT: Two children and a woman were killed, six others seriously injured and six houses razed to the ground, as the extremists attacked last week with heavy weapons the residential areas of Maimana, centre of Faryab, Narang sub district and Pashad village of Kunar. (*KNT*: 23 March, 1988).

Sar-e-Pul

Mujahideen sources: Sar-e-pul is the just created 30th province of Afghanistan.

According to the Agency Afghan Press, the new administrative unit was created to justify the presence of Soviet officials in Sar-e-pul (headquarter of the province) near the source of gas in the "guise of the technical experts". Sar-e-pul is 50 kilometers from Jozjan city in the valley of Koh Albarz. The new province covers parts of the Hindu-kush range where till recently there were no Soviets in any strength. The province will be adjacent to Samangan, Balkh, Jozjan and Faryab provinces. On the south and the south west of it would be Bamiyan and Ghor provinces. (30 March, 1988).

Badghis

KNT: Ten villages of Qadis district in Badghis province have been declared as peace regions through a tribal jirgah held here.

At the jirgah a number of party and state authorities talked about the significance of this tribal jirgah and expressed their readiness to

work for the realization of NR policy. (KNT: 2 March, 1988).

Provinces Bordering Iran

Herat (also bordering Soviet Union)

Mujahideen sources: 20 February: Mujahideen attack security posts in Herat (west) city, killing or wounding 20 Soviet-Kabul servicemen. Three Mujahideen also killed.

27-28 February: Mujahideen pierce through the "Security Cordon" and attack a Soviet-Kabul strong point south of Herat city. Fleeing soldiers abandon two tanks to Mujahideen who drive them to Liberated area.

(The Soviets and their Kabul regime allies have increased aerial patrolling along the Afghan-Iranian border. Security at the airports/strips has also been tightened. Soviet aircraft undertake daily flights from Anar Dara in Farah province to Ghorian and border post Islam Qila in Herat. One of the planes thus engaged was shot down with missile.)

On March 7, Mujahideen attacked a military convoy coming out from Toor Ghundi. Nine troops killed and a tank destroyed.

On March 17, they fired rockets on Soviet military camps in Ghorian and Zinda Jan, west of Herat city. Twenty soldiers were reported killed and 3 tanks destroyed. The Soviets lost another tank in an ambush the same day.

VIRA: According to reports from Herat province the Mujahideen carried out successful operations against Soviet-Kabul troops in the outskirts of Herat city killing nine Soviet-Kabul troops and injuring a number of others.

The News Agency Press reported that after this incident the Kabul regime artillery carried out heavy shelling on the positions of the Mujahideen near Herat city.

Similarly the Mujahideen attacked the security posts of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Bund-e-Chilma (ph) in Herat province in the recent past.

In the attack, 5 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed and 5 others made captive by the Mujahideen.

In an attack on a military convoy of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Herat province, the Mujahideen caused heavy losses in men and material to the enemy. (News Persian: 16 March, 1988).

Mujahideen rocketed a military post of the communist troops near Shindand airport last week. A number of communist troops were killed and injured and two others joined the Muslim Mujahideen ranks

alongwith their arms and ammunition. (23 March, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Muslim freedom fighters have downed a MIG-27 plane of the Soviet-Kabul forces with their missiles near the Shindand airport. (News Urdu: 16 March, 1988).

VOA: Western diplomats in Pakistan say Soviet forces have begun stock-piling weapons in Afghanistan and fortifying military positions around major cities. Diplomats today say the Soviets have delivered truck loads of air to ground missiles to Afghan Air Force units around the north western city of Herat. Similar shipments are reported to have been sent to Kabul since late February. (8 March, 1988).

According to unconfirmed reports, some 70 Soviet soldiers have been killed in recent attacks of Mujahideen in Western Afghanistan. Details of the report sent by Irfan Ghazi from Islamabad:

It is reported that Afghan Mujahideen have inflicted heavy losses to the Soviet forces in western part of the country. According to the reports received in Quetta about 400 Mujahideen ambushed a Soviet convoy in Aatkharma (ph) on 24th February. This place is situated about 150 kilometres south of Herat city. Reliable sources say that the convoy was carrying arms and ammunition for troops in Qandahar. The Mujahideen belonging to four different groups, trapped the military convoy in a narrow pass on Herat-Qandahar highway. They say that Mujahideen used rockets and heavy weapons in attack on the convoy which resulted in the burning of 8 tanks and 15 trucks. It is said that 35 Soviet soldiers were killed whereas 12 Mujahideen were killed and 15 others injured. The attack could not be confirmed though this report is based on a wireless message received from a prominent Mujahideen commander Ismail Khan in Herat. He says that Mujahideen of his group captured a post of Afghan militia on the outskirts of Herat city on 27th of February. Two armoured vehicles were also destroyed in the fighting around the post.

Another source of Afghan Mujahideen in Quetta have reported that Mujahideen units attacked a Soviet base at Adratkan (ph) situated about 80 kilometers south of Herat on 19th February. They say that 35 Soviet soldiers were killed and 18 injured in the attack. Four tanks were also destroyed. It is not known how many Afghan Mujahideen were killed or injured. (11 March, 1988).

On March 22nd, a larger combined Mujahideen force hit a big Soviet ammunition supply convoy on the Herat highway. The convoy was heading for Jalalabad. Mujahideen reported destroying 23 tanks and 8 trucks. Eight jet fighter bombers attacked the Mujahideen positions but were unsuccessful due to the mountainous terrain. But

minutes later, the same fighter bombers were diverted to a Mujahideen ambush on a convoy at Aab-Khurma, much nearer to Shindand Airbase on the same highway. The Mujahideen say they were caught in open ground and suffered heavy casualties in the attack but they did not say exactly how many. (Radio Report English: 30 March, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Military correspondent of Bakhtar News Agency has reported that the extremist groups fired mortar shells on the residential areas of Ward 4 and 10 of Herat city, Textile Mills and Jattan (ph) village of Injeel Woleswali recently. As a result our 13 compatriots including 6 children were injured. Heavy material losses were caused to the area. (News Pushto: 23 March, 1988).

Farah

Mujahideen sources: 16 February: Mujahideen attack a mobile military force in Doaab. An armoured vehicle destroyed.

18 February: Mujahideen attack a convoy between Dilaram town and Shindand airbase. About 100 conscripts—being taken to Shindand under duress—set free.

On March 4, Mujahideen attacked a supply convoy coming out of Farah city and proceeding to Khak-e-Sufaid. Fourteen Soviet troops killed or injured. A tank and 3 oil tankers hit with rockets. On March 17, Mujahideen fired rockets on a military camp near the Shin Dand airbase. A number of tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed and regime soldiers killed. Mujahideen lost 9 fighters.

VIRA: In a fierce battle between the Afghan Mujahideen and Soviet-Kabul troops in Farah province heavy casualties were inflicted on the communists. (News Persian: 7 March, 1988).

According to another report the Mujahideen attacked the positions of Soviet-Kabul troops in Kohi Sufaid in Farah province last week. In the attack an ammunition depot and an oil reservoir of the Kabul Government were set on fire and a number of Soviet-Kabul troops were killed or injured. The report adds that the Mujahideen attacked a Government convoy in Farah province, as a result of which two Government tanks were destroyed and a number of personnel on those tanks were killed. In the fighting two Mujahideen were also martyred.

According to reports convoys carrying arms and ammunition have been entering Afghanistan from the Soviet Union at nights for the last some days. These convoys enter Afghanistan via Hairatan and Sherkhan. They carry arms and ammunition to military bases in Kabul and other prominent cities of Afghanistan. (9 March, 1988).

Radio Tehran: Afghan Muslim Mujahideen pounded positions of

Government forces in Khak-e-Sufaid, Farah province last week setting ablaze a munitions dump and a fuel tanker and killing and wounding several Government troops.

Meanwhile the Afghan Mujahideen shelled a military convoy along supply route of Khak-e-Sufaid to Farah destroying two tanks and killing several of their personnel. Two Afghan Muslims were also martyred in the attack. (IRNA: 7 March, 1988).

VOA: In north-western Afghanistan, Mujahideen units have ambushed several Soviet convoys causing heavy damages. As VOA's John Shultz reports from Islamabad, Soviet built fighter bombers responded to one attack and inflicted heavy casualties on the Mujahideen:

Several Mujahideen commanders operating near the Iranian border say attacks have been carried out on a Soviet airbase on March 18th. The report could not be independently confirmed, but they say that in an attack they killed fourteen Soviet soldiers including two officers and wounded eight more. Mujahideen got away safely using hit and run tactics. (30 March, 1988).

Central Provinces

Bamiyan

Nil report from all sources.

Ghor

Mujahideen sources: During the "third week of March", a military camp jointly occupied by Soviet-Kabul forces was attacked in Chagh-charan, provincial headquarters. A security post was "eliminated" and a number of troops killed and wounded. Mujahideen suffered 2 killed and 4 injured.

KNT: Since the proclamation of national reconciliation 19 groups have observed cease fire in Ghor province and declared their region peace zones, said President of the NF city council of Ghor province.

As a result of the activities of NF members, 62 families having 250 members have returned to the province. Necessary Government assistance has been given to them.

During this period, 28 commissions for national reconciliation with 115 members have been established which include ex-members of armed groups.

Despite the obstacles created by the Iranian and Pakistani authorities the influx of compatriots continues, he noted. (12 March, 1988).

Uruzgan

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen continued their operations against Soviet-Kabul positions in Uruzgan province during March. In an attack the Mujahideen demolished a security post and killed 10 troops.

Kabul and Adjacent Provinces

Kabul

Mujahideen sources: 23 February: Mujahideen fire rockets on Soviet Embassy building.

25 February: Mujahideen attack a security post in Spina Tahna, adjoining Saroobi district. Two tanks and another military vehicle destroyed. Twelve "Russian" troops killed or wounded.

26 February: Mujahideen hit Kabul airport with rockets hitting two aircrafts.

On March 4, Mujahideen made rocket and missile attacks on Soviet manned security posts near Bagram airbase at Mirbachakot. Eleven Soviet soldiers, including, an officer were killed. Mujahideen also fire rockets on Soviet camp in Khair Khana.

On March 8, they exploded a bomb in the Ministry of Education in Kabul city. The building was damaged and a number of people killed or wounded.

Also on March 8, Mujahideen shot down an aircraft in Kabul area.

On March 14, a Mig bomber was shot down in Qarah Bagh, district.

On March 22, Mujahideen hit Soviet-Kabul positions in Arif Khan Gardens, near Kotel Kher Khaah and Chin post near Qala Murad Beg. A number of Soviet-Kabul troops were killed and wounded.

VIRA: The Afghan Muslim revolutionary organizations have drawn attention of international organizations to execution of political prisoners by Kabul regime.

Reports say that Kabul regime has started executing detained Mujahideen leaders. Muslim prisoners are being martyred in the Pul-e-Charkhi central jail. (News Pushto: 1 March, 1988).

Fighting and exchange of fire between the Afghan Mujahideen and the Soviet-Kabul troops has been continuing in Darul Aman and Haji Baba ward in Kabul till the receipt of this report.

The Afghan Mujahideen also attacked the Soviet-Kabul troops in Shakardara area in the north of Kabul killing three Soviet-Kabul troops. (News Persian: 2 March, 1988).

Fighter planes of the Kabul regime subjected residential areas of Guldarra area in Kabul province to indiscriminate bombardment, as a result of which 18 houses of the local people were destroyed.

According to another report the Afghan Mujahideen in their attacks on the joint troops in Shakardarra succeeded in killing 3 of the enemy troops. (News Pushto: 4 March, 1988).

Sources of Muslim Mujahideen have reported that the Afghan freedom fighters in their successful operations in Sarobi area along Kabul-Jalalabad highway, have destroyed an enemy post. A number of communists were killed and injured. (News Pushto: 23 March, 1988).

Similarly, several Soviet advisers were killed when two bombs planted by the Mujahideen exploded on 23rd of February in Kabul.

On 25th of February a bomb went off in a car, parked near the Directorate of Transport in Kabul causing heavy damage to the premises. Mujahideen threw a hand grenade on Kabul regime troops in Wazirabad area of Kabul on 24th of February killing four enemy troops and injuring many others. (News Pushto: 30 March, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have shot down a bomber aircraft of Afghan Air Force near Kabul.

Reports say that the aircraft was shot down when it tried to attack Mujahideen positions. (6 March, 1988).

The Afghan Mujahideen sources say that the ruling Kabul regime has executed more than 400 political prisoners in the Pul-e-Charkhi jail in Kabul. (News Pushto: 9 March, 1988).

Three weeks ago, six powerful explosions rocked the military area of capital Kabul where foreign advisors and leaders of Kabul Government live. (News Urdu: 14 March, 1988).

BBC: Reports coming out of Afghanistan say four Soviet Advisers were killed when a car bomb exploded in a shopping district in the capital, Kabul on Sunday. One other person is said to have been killed and many more injured.

According to western diplomats in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, five other bombs exploded in Kabul last week, one of them narrowly missing a member of Afghanistan politburo.

The diplomats say it is not clear whether the bombs were the work of Afghan guerillas, rival factions in the ruling party or both. (News English: 29 March, 1988).

VOA: A senior Afghan diplomat defected to Pakistan and has requested political asylum. Mujahideen in Pakistani border city of Peshawar said that the Chief of Legal Affairs of Afghan Foreign Ministry Mr. Mohammad Ghous Aamir was given help by the resistance alliance for defection to Pakistan. (News Urdu: 21 March, 1988).

Radio Netherlands: The Soviet Union has denied reports that 4 Soviet Advisers in Afghanistan were killed in a bomb attack in the capital Kabul. The British News Agency Reuter said 5 people had been

killed in the attack which was carried out in the shopping area frequented by Soviet Advisors. Reuter reported further that five bomb blasts occurred over the past week in Kabul. The Soviet Ambassador to Afghanistan claimed that there were no more than two such attacks. (News English: 29 March, 1988).

KNT: Contraband including clothes valued at 100,000 Afghanis were seized by security forces in Pul-e-Charkhi area on February 13. The smuggler, Abdul Malik S/o Abdul Karim, is under custody.

Two hoarders who hoarded 43 bags of candy, 65 cartons of Anchor milk, 20 cartons of milk powder and nine boxes of black tea were caught by officials of the anti-crime department of the Ministry of Interior in Chendawol area, Kabul city. (13 March, 1988).

Parwan

Mujahideen sources: 22 February: Afghan troops manning 12 security posts (in Parwan province (close to Kabul) abandoned their positions and joined Mujahideen).

24 February: Mujahideen attack security posts guarding the residence of the ruling communist party General Secretary, Asif Nabard, in Soofian.

29 February: Mujahideen clash with Soviet-Kabul troops near Rabat overlooking the Kabul-Parwan highway.

On March 5, they demolished an "official building" at Soofian, near Charikar.

On March 8, Mujahideen destroyed 2 tanks and a truck during an attack on the Soviet airbase of Bagram. On the same day, they killed 4 regime troops near Nauman.

On March 13, the Mujahideen claimed having downed 2 MIG fighters and 2 helicopters in the Kohistan area of Parwan. These aircraft were hit with missiles while they were bombarding Mujahideen positions around the subdivisional headquarters of Ghowr Band. Mujahideen have encircled Ghowr Band.

On March 21, Mujahideen attacked Soviet-Kabul establishments in Lalang area. Two oil tankers were destroyed.

VIRA: In an operation the Afghan Mujahideen destroyed 12 military posts of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Soofian area of Parwan and captured all the personnel deployed there. (7 March, 1988).

The Mujahideen shot down four helicopters of the enemy in Parwan province last week and made captive 40 personnel of the enemy troops. (25 March, 1988).

Radio Tehran: Afghan Muslim revolutionaries arrested all the soldiers posted on twelve security posts of the communist forces, in

an operation in Parwan province. (1 March, 1988).

Kapisa

Nil report from all sources.

Laghman

Radio Tehran: In Laghman province the Mujahideen killed 9 occupation troops recently. (23 March, 1988).

KNT: Six units of surface to air rockets smuggled to Laghman province from Pakistan by an armed extremist were seized by the security forces of the country.

The report adds that of late the peaceloving inhabitants of Qarghaie district of Laghman province came into contact the security forces of the province about the delivery in Tour Ghar area.

The security forces took immediate action and seized the units together with six rocket shells and other related equipment. (BIA, *KNT:* 5 March, 1988).

Logar

Mujahideen sources: The Mujahideen conducted a successful attack on a Soviet army camp in Pul-e-Alam, headquarter of Logar province on March 2. Two security posts were destroyed. Fourteen Soviet troops were killed and two tanks, an armoured vehicle and a heavy gun destroyed. Mujahideen also struck at the military installations near Mohammad Agha town. In the course of the attack 8 Soviet troops were killed and injured against the loss of two Mujahideen's.

On March 22, Mujahideen attacked Soviet-Kabul troops near Kulanger. Four security posts were overrun and a quantity of arms and ammunition captured. Mujahideen blocked the Kabul-Paktiya road on March 23.

Wardak

Mujahideen sources: The Mujahideen attacked a military convoy along the Kabul-Ghazni highway in Dashte Toop region about 35 km north of Saidabad city. Two damaged tanks, two other vehicles and 15 soldiers were captured, but the progress of the convoy (which consisted of about 100 vehicles) could not be stopped. It proceeded to Ghazni.

On March 5, Mujahideen attacked Saidabad district headquarters.

On March 6, two Soviet-made tanks were destroyed by anti tank mines on Saidabad-Ghazni uighway.

4 — PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE THEMES

Radio Kabul:

Given below are the major Kabul Radio themes in March 1988 in descending order of recurrence:

1. Certain countries, among them (Pakistan, US, Iran are creating hurdles in the way of peaceful conclusion of an accord, at Geneva.
2. Demands such as an Interim Government in Kabul and Soviet aid cessation, regime considers it as intervention in internal affairs of Afghanistan.
3. National Reconciliation programme is the best political platform to stabilize a favourable situation in Afghanistan.
4. There is widespread appreciation, the world over for initiatives taken by messars Najibullah and Gorbachev concerning Afghanistan. Their stance is both just and flexible.
5. The Opposition in Pakistan is critical of government policies concerning Afghanistan and demands signing of the Geneva Accord without delay.

Radio Moscow:

Given below are the major Moscow media themes in March 1988 in descending order of recurrence:

1. Demands for formation of an Interim Government and cessation of military aid to the legal government of Afghanistan (on the part of Pakistan and US) creates hurdles in the way of signing Geneva Accord: and amount to clear interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.
2. National Reconciliation Policy in Afghanistan yielding tangible results.
3. Pakistan opposition parties demand that Geneva Accord would be signed without imposing new and unjust conditions.
4. Soviet initiative has paved the way for early, and peaceful solution of the Afghanistan problem and the Soviets are straining every nerve to bring peace in the region.
5. Geneva talks are sort of a key to peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem.

APPENDIX — 1

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN MARCH 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Human Losses

Soviet Casualties	:	192 killed and	127 wounded
Kabul Casualties	:	693 killed and	365 wounded
Soviet-Kabul Casualties	:	744 killed and	178 wounded
Defections	:	475 Kabul troops defected and	487 captured
Mujahideen Casualties	:	225 killed and	177 wounded
Afghan Civilian Casualties	:	139 killed and	101 wounded

Material Losses

Soviet-Kabul Material Losses:—

Aircraft	11	LMGs	85	Security Posts	70
Helicopters	9	HMGs	31	Khad Offices	2
Tanks	81	Klashnikovs	534	PDPA	
APCs	74	Search towers	3	Establishments	2
HMVs	91	Rocket		Airport	
Trucks	35	Launchers	55	installation	1
Jeeps	16	Doshaka	6	Water Reservoir	1
Oil Tankers	10	Rifles	33	Bread factory	1
Wireless Sets	9	Handgrenades	16	Food Depots	1
Pistols	6	Boxes of hand		Buildings	12
Bridge	1	grenades	16	Rounds of	
Houses	2	Boxes of		ammunition	450000
Oil reservoir	1	munition	20	Bunkers	38
Motorcycle	6			Assorted weapons	417
Bombs	400	Transformer	1	Ammunition depot	14
District headquarter captured			2	Field Binoculars	
				Radar	1

Mujahideen Material Losses:

Vehicles loaded with arms	10
Rocket launcher	1

APPENDIX — 2

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN MARCH 1988 SOVIET-KABUL (RADIO KABUL) SOURCES

Mujahideen and Afghan Civilian ("Counter-revolutionaries") Losses:

Killed	29	
Captured	9	
Returnees		(Those availing amnesty voluntarily surrendering, changing allegiance and joining Soviet-Kabul ranks).
Civilian Refugees	1710	
Members of armed groups	1431	

Prisoners released under present amnesty decree: 13

Counter Revolutionaries Material Losses:

Based/Hideouts	4	
Weapons	1	
Landmines	1	
Rocket Launcher	4	
Missiles	66	
Garments Amount	100,000	Afghanis
Truck loaded with arms	1	

Losses Inflicted by Counter-Revolutionaries

Human Losses:	Killed	7
	Wounded	31
Material Losses:	Houses	33

APPENDIX — 3

PROVINCEWISE ENGAGEMENTS IN MARCH 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engagements	Provincial Capital	Engagements	
			Inside City	Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	4	Zaranj	1	—
Hilmand	40	Lashkargarh	1	2
Qandahar	59	Qandahar	12	3
Zabul	5	Kalat Gilzai	2	—
Ghazni	5	Ghazni	3	2
Paktika	11	Sharna	—	1
Paktiya	36	Gardez	—	—
Ningarhar	35	Jalalabad	1	1
Kunar	24	Chagha Sarai	—	1
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	—	Faizabad	—	—
Takhar	3	Taloqan	—	—
Kunduz	4	Kunduz	—	—
Baghlan	26	Baghlan	3	1
Samangan	5	Samangan	1	1
Balkh	12	Mazar Sharif	5	1
Jozjan	5	Shebergan	—	—
Surepul	—	Sarepul	—	—
Faryab	13	Maimana	7	1
Badghis	3	Qala Nau	3	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	17	Herat	3	2
Farah	7	Farah	—	—
(Nimruz)	—	(Zaranj)	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	—	Bamiyan	—	—
Ghor	1	Chaghcharan	1	—
Uruzgan	3	Tarin Kot	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	40	Kabul	8	1
Parwan	29	Charikar	1	—
Kapisa	—	Mahmud-i-Raqi	—	—
Laghman	—	Mehtarlam	—	—
Logar	17	Pule Alam	1	—
Wardak	22	Koteasro	—	1
TOTAL	426		53	18

APPENDIX — 4

**MUJAHIDEEN MOBILE & IMMOBILE TARGETS AND
SOVIET-KABUL OPERATIONS IN MARCH 1988
(MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)**

Provinces	Mujahideen Targets		Soviet-Kabul Operations		Total
	Mobile	Immobile	Air	Ground	
Bordering Pakistan					
Nimruz	2	2	—	—	4
Hilmand	3	15	6	16	40
Qandahar	6	39	8	6	59
Zabul	—	2	3	—	5
Ghazni	2	2	—	1	5
Paktika	5	4	—	2	11
Paktiya	4	19	13	—	36
Ningarhar	1	21	4	9	95
Kunar	4	5	12	3	24
Bordering USSR					
Badakhshan	—	—	—	—	—
Takhar	3	—	—	—	3
Kunduz	3	1	—	—	4
Baghlan	6	16	3	1	26
Samangan	1	2	—	2	5
Balkh	3	9	—	—	12
Jozjan	—	5	—	—	5
Surpul	—	—	—	—	—
Faryab	1	8	3	1	13
Badghis	—	3	—	—	3
Bordering Iran					
Herat	5	12	—	—	17
Farah	4	2	1	—	—
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces					
Bamiyan	—	—	—	—	—
Ghor	—	1	—	—	1
Uruzgan	—	3	—	—	3
Kabul & Adjacent					
Kabul	8	28	3	1	40
Parwan	7	9	6	7	29
Kapisa	—	—	—	—	—
Laghman	—	—	—	—	—
Logar	3	7	—	7	17
Wardak	7	12	3	—	22
TOTAL:	78	227	65	56	426

APPENDIX — 5

**PROVINCEWISE SOVIET-KABUL SECURITY OPERATIONS AND
RETURNEES IN MARCH 1988 (Radio Kabul)**

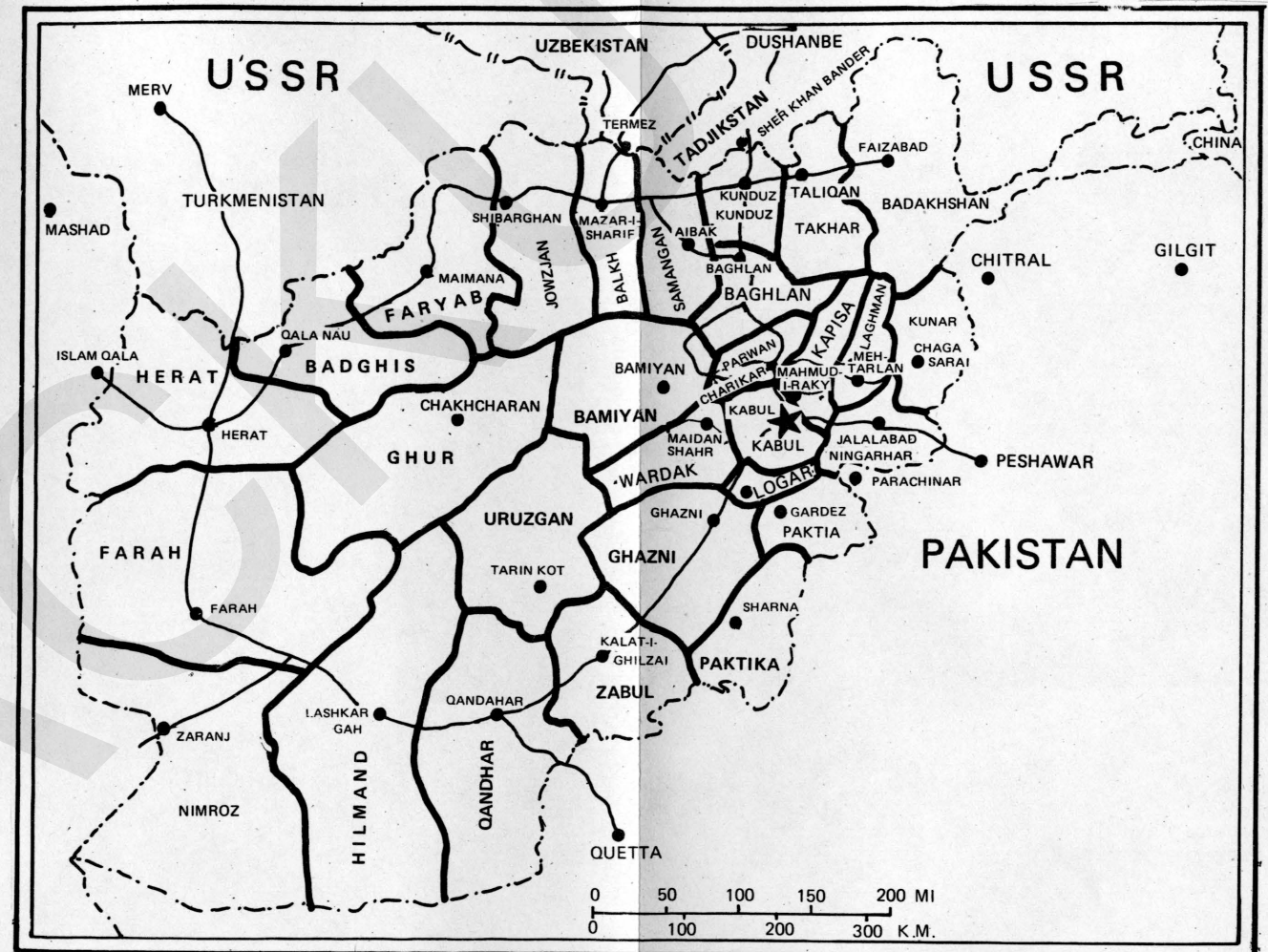
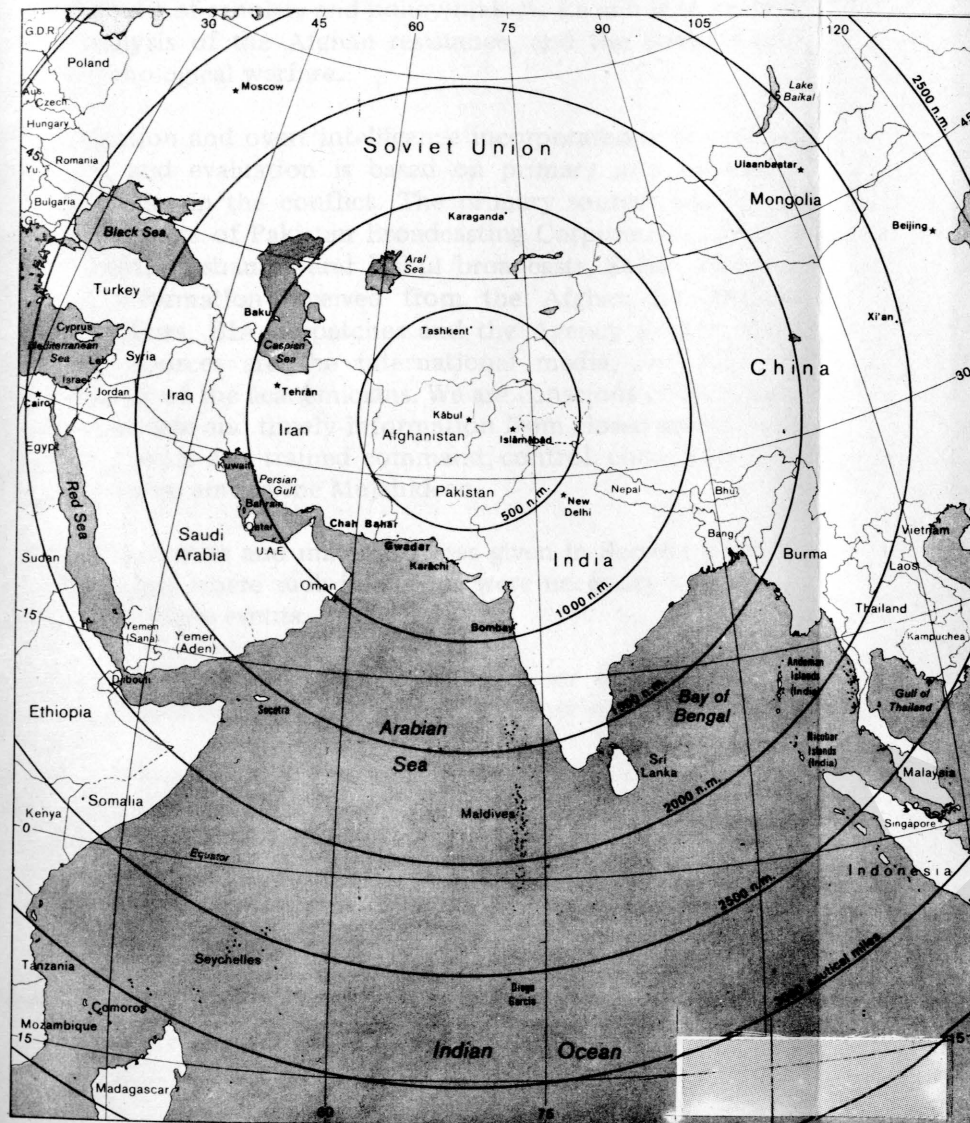
Provinces	Soviet-Kabul Operations	Counter-revolutionaries Action	Returnees numbers	Members of Armed groups surrendered
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	—	—	—	—
Hilmand	1	—	—	15
Qandahar	—	—	72	250
Zabul	1	—	—	—
Ghazni	—	—	77	—
Paktika	—	2	—	10
Paktiya	1	—	343	—
Ningarhar	—	3	—	—
Kunar	—	—	—	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	—	—	70	—
Takhar	—	—	25	171
Kunduz	—	—	47	—
Baghlan	—	—	—	—
Samangan	—	—	—	—
Balkh	—	—	—	—
Jozjan	1	—	—	24
Faryab	—	2	—	366
Badghis	—	—	—	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	—	1	295	595
Farah	—	—	80	—
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	1	1	—	—
Ghor	—	—	250	—
Uruzgan	—	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	2	1	451	—
Parwan	—	A	—	—
Kapisa	—	—	—	—
Laghman	1	—	—	—
Logar	—	—	—	—
Wardak	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:	8	10	1710	1431

APPENDIX — 6

AFGHAN CIVILIAN HUMAN AND MATERIAL LOSSES MARCH 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Location	Casualties		Houses destroyed/ Damaged	Heads of Live- stocks	Date (1988)
		K	W			
Nimruz	Rabat Jali	10	12	—	—	1/3
Qandahar	Qandahar	50	—	10	—	19/3
Ghazni	Rukha	1	5	—	—	9/3
Paktiya	Jani Khel	3	—	4	120	4/3
Ningarhar	Khugiani	3	—	—	—	13/2
Ningarhar	Jalalabad	5	5	5	—	19/3
Ningarhar	Shinwar	7	10	10	—	21/3
Kunar	Shalai	2	—	—	—	15/3
Baghlan	Baghlan	9	—	—	—	2/3
Samangan	Kohah Balq	—	—	5	—	21/3
Faryab	Maimana	40	60	18	—	17/3
Kabul	Shakar Dara	2	4	5	—	3/3
Kabul	Kabul city	3	—	—	—	5/3
Parwan	Ghorband	5	10	10	—	13/3
Logar	Qala-e-Tahir	—	—	5	—	17/2
Logar	Asmatullah	—	—	5	—	22/3
Wardak	Sanglash	8	2	—	—	12/2
TOTAL 19 INCIDENTS IN 14 PROVINCES		148	103	77	120	

APPENDIX — VII A



Mujahideen sources: Conflict reported during March 1988 in 25 Provinces. Provinces from where no war report received: Badakhshan, Bamiyan, Kapisa, Laghman and Suripul.

Radio Kabul: Conflict reported during March 1988 in 11 provinces. These provinces are: Hilmand, Zabul, Paktiya, Ningarhar, Kunar, Jozjan, Faryab, Herat, Bamiyan, Kabul and Laghman.

NOTES

The monthly Afghanistan Report is a carefully researched document for the benefit of scholars and policy-makers. Its aim is to present an objective analysis of the Afghan resistance, and the Soviet-Kabul military and psychological warfare.

The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Soviet Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Information Centre, Afghan News, BIA despatches and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are conscious of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up among the Mujahideen.

Figures of casualties and material losses given in Section 3 are in only those few cases where such inclusions were necessary for proper appreciation of the given events.

Losses reported in "Soviet-Kabul" category are often physically not verifiable by the Mujahideen and therefore mostly speculative.

The reports received and reported are subject to the process of verification, whenever possible, which may include interviewing with those most directly informed on the events.

Dates given in parenthesis in the chapter "Provincewise Survey Analysis" are of the actual broadcast.

Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (VOIR).

PERIOD COVERED

Facts and figures given in this study are based on reports mostly received during March 1-31, 1988. Appendices 1-6 also incorporate February 1988 incidents reported in March 1988.

II.— THE POLITICO-ECONOMIC AND SOCIO-CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

1 — MESSAGES, VISITS AND MEETINGS

Messages

Message on various occasions were sent to, received from and exchanged with the following countries and organizations: Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cuba, Republic of Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Ghana, Syria, UNO and Vietnam.

Visits

A delegation of the PDPA CC headed by Najmuddin Kawyani, member of Politburo and Secretary of the PDPA CC left on March 8, for Berlin at the invitation of the Central Committee of Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) to exchange views and sign cooperation protocols between the parties. The Afghan delegation will also visit Bulgaria to sign cooperation protocols between the Communist Party of Bulgaria and the PDPA (KNT, 8 March, 1988).

Syed Ammanuddin Amin first Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan on the invitation of the first Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic, visited Budapest recently (KNT, 6 March, 1988).

The Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has met his Afghan counterpart Abdul Wakil, who was in Moscow on his way to Afghan-Pakistan talks resuming in Geneva, March 2. The Ministers discussed ways of a political settlement around Afghanistan (Radio Moscow: 1 March, 1988).

A high ranking delegation of the Higher and Technical Education Ministry of GDR, led by Dr. Schwanker, Deputy Minister, arrived in Kabul on the invitation of the Ministry of Higher and Professional Education of the RA to hold talks on scientific and cultural cooperation between the two countries (Kabul Times: 23 March, 1988).

Meetings

Najibullah received on March 19, the high ranking delegation of the All Workers Union of Bulgaria. Views were exchanged at the meeting on further cooperation between the trade unions of Afghanistan and Bulgaria (Kabul Times: 22 March, 1988).

President Najibullah received on March 19, in Kabul, a high ranking

delegation of the Central Council of All Worker's Union of Czechoslovakia, led by Evan Gonko, first deputy chairman of the Council. Views were exchanged at the meeting on matters of mutual interest and further cooperation (Kabul Times: 22 March, 1988).

Prime Minister Sultan Ali Keshtmand received the delegation of the Council of People's Deputies of Moscow city at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers in Kabul (KNT, 17 March, 1988).

President Najibullah, received in Kabul, the delegation of the executive committee of the Council of People's Deputies of Moscow city led by its chairman. Views were exchanged on the problems and needs of Kabul city in different spheres. The delegation of Moscow city council promised further cooperation for tackling the needs of Kabul city (KNT, 17 March, 1988).

Najibullah received on March 7, in Kabul, the delegation of Byelorussian-SSR led by Boris A. Makeinchenko, first deputy chairman of the state planning committee of the Republic. Mohammad Hakim, Deputy Prime Minister, and the Governors of Laghman and Kunar provinces were also present at the meeting. Matters relating to direct cooperation between Byelorussian-SSR and the two Afghan provinces were discussed (KNT, 8 March, 1988).

The Afghan Foreign Minister, Abdul Wakil, who is currently in Geneva, attended a reception hosted in his honour by the Commissioner of the UNHCR. During the reception the Afghan Foreign Minister, held talks with the Commissioner on the matters pertaining to the return of the Afghan refugees. In reply the High Commissioner, expressed all kind of readiness to assist in the task of returning of the refugees to their country. According to another report, Mr. Wakil also met with the President of the International Committee of Red Cross in Geneva and held talks with him on the activities of the Red Cross in Afghanistan (Radio Kabul: 13 March, 1988).

Najibullah, President of the Republic of Afghanistan, met in Kabul with a high ranking delegation of Soviet Republic of Kirghizia, headed by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of that Republic. In the course of the meeting matters concerning cooperation between the Soviet Republic of Kirghizia and Afghan provinces of Bamiyan and Wardak were discussed (Radio Kabul: 2 March, 1988).

2 — POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Politburo Session Held

A periodic session of the Politburo of the PDPA CC was held on March 10. The Politburo reviewed the realisation of the policy of

national reconciliation and considered generalization of the party's policy of respect to observance and preservation of the sacred religion of Islam, further development of education and research in the principles and tenets of Islam, training of scientific, professional cadres with high education in the fields of Islamic education and sciences, law and justice, teaching of Arabic and establishment of an Islamic university for promotion of studies and research in Islamic sciences in the country. The Politburo directed that the Islamic university be set up under the Ministry of Higher and Professional Education based on the faculty of theology of Kabul University and the centre for Islamic studies. The Politburo recommended to the Council of Ministers to promote the Islamic University and also entrusted tasks to other responsible authorities for starting lessons in the faculties of the university. The Politburo also considered the military patriotic training of youth in the conditions of realisation of national reconciliation, and noted that there still exist serious defects and short-comings in this field and that military commissariats do not take active part in it. The Politburo, assessed as poor the contribution of the DYOA committees and organisations to the military-patriotic training of youth and criticized the activity of party committees of the Ministries of Education and Higher and Professional Education and mass media in this work. The politburo passed a resolution on improving matters in the above spheres. It also discussed and adopted necessary decision on the recruitment to military service and reserve forces of activists and professional cadres of the PDPA, social organisations, publication organs of the PDPA and party members in state organs who are eligible for service. It pointed out that still all the youth cannot find employment according to their profession and liking. Enough attention is not paid to the protection and sound upbringing of children; a large number of young peasants still do not own land, are unaware of the new agrarian policy, and thus have not benefited from its advantages. The Ministries of Education, Higher and Professional Education, and Vocational and Technical Education do not pay necessary attention to the increase of enrollment of students, provision of facilities for the children of poor families and martyres. The Politburo added that serious defects are observed in the work of party committees among the youth. The session also reviewed preparations for elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan and entrusted tasks to responsible organs. The Politburo discussed the strengthening of party political work among Afghan students abroad and entrusted concrete tasks to responsible organs for better selection of students to be sent abroad for studies. The Politburo entrusted the Foreign Ministry of the RA certain tasks activizing diplo-

matic relations with Kuwait, Jordan, Syria and other Islamic and non-aligned countries, including Arab countries (*KNT*, 13 March, 1988).

A periodic session of the Politburo of the PDPA CC was held on March 24. The session discussed the establishment of a new province named Sar-e-Pul, in the southern part of Balkh and Jauzjan provinces. The new province covers the southern parts of Balkh including Shulgara and Charkent districts, Khushenda sub-district and Sar-el-Pul, Sangeharak and Kohistan district, Balkhab and Sozma Qala sub-districts of Jauzjan province. The centre of the province is Sar-e-Pul (*Kabul Times*, 27 March).

Periodic Session of the Law Enforcement Organs

A periodic session of the coordinating commission of the law enforcement organs was held in the headquarters of the attorney general. It was resolved that resolute measures be taken for precise observance and implementation of the provisions of the constitution of the RA. It was also resolved that with regard to investigation of crimes, arrests house search, legal prosecution and open court trial etc, the law enforcement organs should carry on their work within their authority in full conformity with the provisions of the constitution so as to avoid violations of law (*KNT*, 21 March).

A Session of the Executive Board of NF

An extraordinary session of the executive board of the National Front was held on March 24, in Kabul. Abdul Rahim Hatif, President of the NF, presided. The participation of NF councils in the process of elections to the National Assembly was considered and a resolution was adopted. Also the work plan of the NF for the current year was discussed and decisions were adopted (*Kabul Times*, 27 March).

Elections in Afghanistan

The Afghan President has approved the law regarding election of the country's National Council. The law was earlier ratified by the Revolutionary Council. Following is the relevant Presidential decree: In accordance with the 2nd sentence of the 75th clause of the constitution of the RA, the law of election of the Afghan National Council, comprising eight chapters and 58 clauses is hereby approved. The Presidential decree would now be sent to the Ministry of Justice for publication in the official gazette. The President also issued a decree about the structure of the Central Commission for conducting election for the National Council. Abdul Rahim Hatif has been appointed Chairman of the

Commission (Radio Kabul 17 March, 1988).

Afghan President Najibullah has announced that the elections will be held in Afghanistan in the first week of April. The country will have a bi-cameral parliament. He said, polling to elect the National Assembly will begin simultaneously throughout the country from April 6. The newly appointed Central Election Commission has been empowered to complete the polls within 10 days, after which the provincial legislatures will elect the Senate of Upper House. He said applications for Senate seats will be processed by the president who will select representatives on recommendations from the National Front. National Front Chief Abdul Rahim Hatif has already been named chairman of the election commission. The government will provide funds and technical assistance to the commission to conduct the polls. The regime has appealed to its opponents to participate in the elections. In an apparent reference to the millions of Afghan refugees, it said the government has reserved seats for opponents abroad who can be taken in the Assembly at a later stage (AFP, 19 March, 1988).

Presidential Decree

The presidential office reports that in accordance with the articles 12, 13 and 14 of the constitution, President Najibullah has approved through decree No. 244 dated March 17, 1988 the law on elections to the National Assembly and creation of electoral constituencies as follows:—

Article 1: Elections to National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan should take place from Hamal 17 to Hamal 26 HS 1367.

Article 2: In the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan 29 polling stations should be organized for election of representatives and 62 polling stations with regard to the election of senators. The areas of electoral wards are endorsed as per appendix 2 and 3.

Article 3: In case the oppositions do not participate in separate polling stations together with the people, election of representative or senator of the said area is reserved for the opposition in the future.

Article 4: The executive committees of the provincial councils, Kabul city and Khost division are assigned to determine the voting centre in every polling station. Provincial commissions should separately create commissions of voting with regard to election of representative and senator to the National Assembly.

Article 5: The central election commission is entrusted to approve forms of elections and distribute them to elections commissions in time.

Article 6: The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan will provide every financial, material and technical facilities to the

central election commission for elections.

Article 7: The decisions of the central election commission and electing commissions should be implemented unconditionally by state organs and responsible individuals.

Article 8: The executive committees of provincial council and other units should elect senators from among the representatives of the council and submit their lists to the central election commission within one week.

Article 9: National front and its social organizations and political parties should submit their proposals to me within one week with regard to the senate candidates whose selection is belonged to the President. The name, father's name, date of birth, party membership, nationality, education and occupation of the candidate should be mentioned (KNT, 22 March, 1988).

Central Election Commission Appointed

President Najibullah has issued decree No. 244 dated March 17, 1988 appointing the following members to the central commission for elections to the National Assembly under article 19 of the law on elections to the National Assembly.

Chairman: Abdul Rahim Hatif, President of the National Front. Deputy Chairman: Mir Saheb Karwal, member of the Politburo of the PDPA CC, representative of the PDPA. Bashir Baghlani, representative of SAZA. Dr. Dehzad, representative of SZA. Abdul Hakim Tawana, representative of Peasants' Justice Party of Afghanistan. Abdul Sattar Seerat, representative of People's Islamic Party of Afghanistan. Secretary: Nazar Mohammad Sarmand. Members: Nezamuddin Tahzib, President of the Supreme Court. Osman Rasikh, Attorney General. Amanuddin Amin, Deputy Prime Minister. Hassan Sharq, Deputy Prime Minister. Akbar Shormach, Minister of Nationalities. Nematullah Pazhwak, Minister without portfolio. Kabir Ranjbar, Presidential aide on councils. Fazlul Haq, head of department of local councils of the PDPA CC. Sattar Purdeli, Chairman of the Trade Unions of Afghanistan. Massouma Asmati, Chairperson of Afghanistan Women's Council. Khudai Noor Bawar, President of the Union of Cooperatives. Mawalvi Manzoor, Chairman of the High Council of Ulema and Clergymen. Ghulam Sakhi Massoun, President of the Lawyers' Association. Razwan Qul Tamana, Chairman of the Union of Craftsmen. Akram Osman, Chairman of the Writers Association. Mir Habib Suhaili, Chairman of the Central Council of High Jirgah of Tribes. Khadim Hussain Beg, Chairman of the Central Council of Hazara Nationality. Mahmoud Habibi, Journalists Union. Naib Azimi, First Deputy Minister of De-

fence. Sar Rawzawal, Deputy Minister of Interior. Yar Mohammad, First Deputy Minister of State Security. Sayed Rasul Fakoor, Vice President of the Central Council of National Front. Sayed Mansoor Naderi, member of the Revolutionary Council. Sarwar Nooristani, Rahmat Agha peasant from Andkhoy district. Ganga Ram, national trader. Azmuddin, peasant from Kabul. Jan Gul, Workers of AFSOTR. Sanjang Zazai, Minister Without Portfolio. Shah Ali Akbar Shahrastani.

The presidential office reports that one seat of deputy chairman and nine seats of members of the commission have been kept vacant to be filled by opposition representatives.

A session of the Election Commission for the National Assembly elections of the Republic of Afghanistan was held in Kabul, for the purpose of taking necessary measures and making preparations for holding of elections for National Assembly. The session was presided over by Abdul Rahim Hatif, who presented his report on the decisions and actions for holding of elections and necessary decisions were taken in this connection (Radio Kabul: 28 March, 1988).

Najibullah's Message to Opposition Leaders

He said, "We appeal to you once again to think upon the condition of the Afghan people who have been mainly affected by the nine-year long war. Your aim is to take part in the administration of the country. Our government has offered you a number of posts in the government. The continuation of the fratricidal war will destroy our country and its people. We should end it soon. We have presented a number of constructive proposals and are ready to work for the restoration of peace. We will jointly implement your proposals about the formation of a coalition government. Do not miss this historic opportunity. Do not be among those who have atrocious plans against our country. By presenting the question of Durand Line and formation of an interim government in the Geneva talks the Pakistani government wants to impose the Durand Line upon the people of our country. Do you want to be with them. We must make joint efforts for the well-being and progress and prosperity of our people. History will never forgive you if you do not work for the restoration of an ever-lasting peace in Afghanistan" (Radio Kabul: 29 March, 1988).

Message of the Afghan President to the Commanders of the Armed Opponent Groups

"My message is in the name of all those who were involved in the bloody war against our innocent countrymen. Pay heed to the call of the people of Afghanistan, for God sake. You may ask the widows and

orphans of the country as to who will be benefited from the fratricidal war. Ask the starving refugees whether this destructive war is in their interest. Those who want to make the Durand Line valid can never be sincere to the Afghan people. We invite you to take part in the elections. Fifty-four of the constituencies for Lower House of the Parliament are located in those areas which are under the control of the opposition. Eighteen constituencies for the Senate are also located in these areas. The opposition has full right to nominate their candidates for the elections. Besides, twenty-five seats in the Senate will be reserved for the opposition. All Afghans are brothers and we can do no good to our brothers by continuing the bloodshed. We invite you to take part in the elections and struggle for the restoration of peace" (Radio Kabul: 29 March, 1988).

New Appointments

The administrative department of the Council of Ministers of Republic of Afghanistan informs that on the proposals of the council of Ministers and with the approval of President Najibullah the following appointments have been made in the framework of the Council of Ministers for the Northern provinces with the rank of Deputy Prime Minister. Fida Mohammad Dehneshin, as President of the Department of supervision of mass publicity and extension, attached to the Council of Ministers. Syed Murtaza, as first Deputy Chairman of the State Planning Committee. Sultan Hussain as first Deputy Chairman of the State Planning Committee (KNT, 15 March, 1988).

Alliance of the Leftist Democratic Parties

A report reveals that "For ending war and bloodshed in the country (Afghanistan) and putting the country on the path of progress and prosperity, leftist democratic parties of the country have decided to form an alliance." The leftist democratic parties believe that it is very necessary to form a strong political alliance and joint political platform to bring the country out of the present complicated problems. In such a situation unity of all patriotic and democratic forces is necessary. Bringing the leftist parties and organizations on one platform and unity among them is not aimed at violating the political rights of these leftist parties and organizations. The organizations and the parties will enjoy complete freedom for presenting their ideas and publications and their all political and ideological rights will remain safe. The alliance of the leftist organizations and parties of the Republic of Afghanistan has been formed to end bloodshed and fratricidal war; restoration and strengthening peace and in order to organize national reconciliation

programme for the success of Saur Revolution.

The alliance will struggle for freedom and sovereignty of the country, will take steps for maintenance of law and order, to defend the country against aggressions of anti-social elements in the internal affairs of the country, to make the atmosphere of the country conducive for the return of limited Soviet military contingent and for the return of Afghan refugees to the country.

Similarly the alliance will work for the respect to the sacred religion of Islam and traditions of Afghanistan in the field of internal politics, will make efforts for the unity of leftist parties for democratic system in the country and formation of a coalition government and to cooperate in this regard (Radio Kabul: 27 March, 1988).

Factionalism in the PDPA

There are some fresh reports that the Karmal group is getting stronger. It may be recalled that in May 1986, Najibullah removed Karmal from the leadership of the Communist Party and after a few days his associates were also deprived of important offices. Now recently yet another associate of Karmal, Mr. Noor Ahmad Noor has been removed from the membership of the politburo and has been appointed Ambassador to Poland. But he has refused to go there. There are reports that he has formed a new organization called Anjuman-e-Najat-e-Milli (ph). Sources say that Karmal's brother Mahmood, a former Minister of Karmal's cabinet Anahita Ratibzade and the present interior Minister Syed Mohammad Gulabzai has also joined hands with Noor Ahmad Noor. Hence the situation in Kabul is that an anti-Najibullah faction is getting stronger (VOA, 10 March, 1988).

While the government is trying to demonstrate national solidarity and coordination, there are indications in Kabul that Afghan Communist Party is experiencing a split. Their differences often result in violence and it can well be judged from the fact that nine incidents of exchange of fire and car bomb blasts occurred in Kabul last week. Diplomats in Islamabad also reported that nine rockets were fired at Kabul from outside the town. However, it appears that these fightings and car bomb incidents are the result of differences between Khalq and Parcham factions of the Communist Party. In a car bomb incident on March 23, a Khalq Party worker, who is also member of the politburo narrowly escaped while his two bodyguards were killed on the spot. On March 19, open fighting took place between secret police and Sarandoi troops of Interior Ministry. They both are responsible for security in Kabul city but the problem is that one of them belongs to Khalq while the other to Parcham (VOA: 30 March, 1988).

Coalition Government

The Pakistan Foreign Minister Mr. Zain Noorani has said that the coalition government would provide reassurance for the return of millions of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran. Mr. Noorani said the Soviet Union acknowledged that the present government in Kabul was only a city based administration of intellectuals in a largely rural country. It was in no position to shoulder the obligations of any agreement reached in Geneva (BBC: 4 March, 1988).

Najibullah said that "the Afghan government is ready, acting with a sense of high responsibility and goodwill, to sit at the negotiating table with the opposition at different levels including the representatives of the refugees anywhere inside or outside the country in connection with the formation of a coalition government (KNT, 6 March, 1988).

Kabul regime calls the appointment of Engineer Ahmad Shah as head of interim government in Afghanistan as unconstitutional as his wife is an American. Under the constitution of Afghanistan, every Muslim citizen of Afghanistan who attains forty years of age, and he as well as his spouse are Afghan Muslim by birth, can be elected as President of Afghanistan. Those who are Afghans and are thinking about the future of Afghanistan should first come to Afghanistan and then advance their ideas and views. The people of Afghanistan will not accept those as their President or head of government who are nominated by Islamabad or Washington. Here in Afghanistan free and democratic elections are being held. And on the basis of these elections a coalition government will be set up. Those persons who want to take part in the campaign of the formation of the coalition government should return and participate in making the future political set up of their country on the basis of the constitution (Radio Kabul: 2 March, 1988).

The Issue of Military Aid

Afghanistan says it will not agree to give up Soviet military aid in order to reach a peace agreement in Geneva. Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil told a news conference on March 9, that the Soviet Union has been aiding Afghanistan for sixty eight years. He said it would not be right to stop that aid as a part of an agreement to withdraw the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops. The United States has said it will not end its aid to Afghan resistance forces until there is a cut off of Soviet military aid to the Kabul government (VOA: 10 March, 1988).

The US Senate has opposed the suggestion seeking reduction in the US military aid to Mujahideen in view of the Soviet troops with-

drawal from Afghanistan. A unanimously adopted resolution says that the issue of US aid to Mujahideen could only be debated when Moscow ends its military occupation of Afghanistan. The resolution suggests that after the Soviet pull out from Afghanistan the Mujahideen should be armed in such a way that they could defend themselves at the time of delicate stage of transfer of power. The resolution also favours the deployment of the UN peace keeping forces in Afghanistan to maintain law and order, if the need arises. The resolution also favours the formation of an interim government in Kabul, acceptable to Afghan Mujahideen (VOG: 1 March, 1988).

The US Senate has unanimously adopted a long binding resolution calling for continued aid to the Afghan resistance until the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan has clearly come to an end. The resolution also says that Pakistan should not be pressurized to accept Soviet conditions for a settlement (VOA: 1 March, 1988).

Afghan Resistance

A statement by the Hizb-e-Islami of Hikmatyar said that if Pakistan signs the Geneva Accord Mujahideen will not take any such action that may create difficulties for Pakistan, it said that Mujahideen will shift their centres to Afghanistan (VOA: 15 March, 1988).

The new Chairman of Afghan Guerilla Alliance, Mr. Gulbadin Hikmatyar says there is absolutely no possibility of the freedom fighters forming a coalition government together with the present government in Kabul or even holding negotiations with it. Addressing a Press conference in Peshawar, in which five out of seven guerilla leaders participated, Mr. Hikmatyar said that only a coalition government having majority of guerillas, could give guarantee for the establishment of peace in Afghanistan following which Afghan refugees can return to their homes. He said unless such a government was accepted, guerillas would continue their attacks on the Soviet forces even if they are leaving Afghanistan. He said the alliance would soon establish its own government inside Afghanistan (BBC: 18 March, 1988).

Gulbadin Hikmatyar in a letter addressed to the Parliament of Pakistan, demanded from the government not to sign the Geneva agreement. The letter says the Soviet Union consequent upon its defeat in Afghanistan, is now trying to implement plans which have no other objective than continuation of bloodshed in Afghanistan. Hikmatyar in his letter adds that in case of signing the Geneva agreements Pakistan will be compelled to close the offices of the Afghan Organizations, he will be compelled to shift headquarters and offices of his party to Iran (VIRA: 5 March, 1988).

Mr. Khalis has said that the Afghan resistance alliance would not accept the Pakistan's formula for such a broadbased coalition government in Afghanistan under which the Afghan Communist Party would get one third share in the power. Referring to the structure of the coalition government in Afghanistan, presented by the Afghan alliance last month, Mr. Younis Khalis said no compromise could be made on it (VOA: 8 March, 1988).

Leaders in the fold of Tehran based United Council of Afghan Mujahideen called on Iranian President Ali Khamenei in Tehran on March 8, and presented him a report about Council's first phase performance. The participants of the meeting also expressed gratitude on the hospitality which Iranian government has been extending to Afghan refugees. They also appreciated Iran's firm and solid stand in connection with Afghanistan's future. Reciprocating their feelings, Khamenei expressed happiness over the alignment of eight parties of Mujahideen based in Iran. He described as significant step the setting up of the United Council. He maintained that Soviet decision to call back its troops from Afghanistan is a crystal clear proof of the fact that the Soviet Union cannot subjugate Afghans. No doubt, he went on to say, that Afghans have set a praiseworthy example by compelling the Soviets to retreat (Radio Tehran: 9 March, 1988).

The Chief of the Jamiat-e-Islami Afghanistan, Burhanuddin Rabbani has declared solidarity with the people and the Islamic revolution of Iran on behalf of the Muslim people of Afghanistan. He said this in a message sent to the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Radio Tehran: 5 March, 1988).

Diplomatic Appointments

Noor Ahmad Noor member of the politburo and Secretary of the PDPA CC who has been appointed Afghan Ambassador to Poland, left for Poland on 17 March (KNT, 19 March, 1988).

The Republic of Afghanistan has concurred in the appointment of Nikolai Yegorychev as Ambassador of the Soviet Union to the RA. Yegorychev was born in Moscow in 1920. He has been a party functionary since 1950. In 1962-67 he held the post of First Secretary of the Moscow city committee of the CPSU (KNT, 19 March, 1988).

Abdul Majid Sarbuland Ambassador extraordinary of the Republic of Afghanistan in Cuba who is appointed concurrently as non-resident Ambassador of the RA in Nicaragua, presented on March 15, his credentials to Daniel Ortega, President of Nicaragua (KNT, 21 March, 1988).

Ali-al-Mobark Al Shereighi Secretary of the popular bureau of

the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya delivered on March 22, his credentials to President Najibullah (*KNT*, 23 March, 1988).

3 — NATIONALITIES POLICY

The Central Council of Hazara Nationality expressed in a session on March 3, their full support to the statements made by the leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union on the Afghanistan question. Mohammad Ejaz Nabizada, secretary of the Central Council of Hazara nationality spoke on the importance of the recent statements of the two leaders on the maintenance of peace in the country, solution of the situation around Afghanistan and the Geneva talks (*KNT*, 5 March, 1988).

Agha Nazar was elected as district governor of Kaldar district at a tribal Jirgah held on March 8, 1988 in Kaldar, Balkh province (*KNT*, 12 March, 1988).

Religion

Afghan President Dr. Najibullah has announced the formation of an advisory council to seek advice about Islamic Affairs. The government would take decision in the light of advice given by the new council. The step is a part of the efforts of Kabul government to get support of the Muslim majority in Afghanistan (BBC: 14 March, 1988).

According to a spokesman of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Religious Trusts, 250 theology teachers who completed their teachers training have received military service exemption cards and are teaching in different Islamic schools of the country (*KNT*, 10 March, 1988).

The birth day of Hazrat-e-Ali (Fourth Caliph of Islam) was celebrated on March 2, in Kabul. A function which was held at Qaima Afshar Takia was attended by Sheikh Mohammad Sadiqi, Deputy Minister of Islamic Affairs and Religious Trusts, several ulema, clergymen and muslim citizens (*KNT*, 3 March, 1988).

The foundation stone of Hazrat-e-Abu Bakr Siddique congregational mosque was laid on March 8 in Karte Gulghundi of Charikar city in Parwan province. The mosque is being built at an expenditure of 450,000 Afghani, 50 per cent of which is donated by the local people (*KNT*, 12 March, 1988).

4 — ECONOMY

RC Commission Reviews Budget

A periodic session of the standing commission for planning and

budget of the Revolutionary Council was held on March, 16 at Gulkhana Palace, presidential headquarters.

The session was presided over by Niaz Mohammad Momand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and head of the commission. The reports of the State Planning Committee and the Ministry of Finance on implementation of the development plan and state budget for 1987-88, were presented by Mohammad Kabir, Minister of Finance and Sultan Hussain, first deputy chairman of the State Planning Committee respectively.

The session noted that as a result of timely measures taken and the indefatigable efforts of concerned organs and working collectives of the country the objectives of the 1987 plan were implemented and comparative growth of national economy was ensured.

The session also discussed the draft of socio-economic plan and state budget for 1988 and the review of the budget of 1987 presented by the Council of Ministers for final approval by RC of Afghanistan. The session noted that draft of socio-economic plan and the state budget for 1988 have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Afghanistan and realization of the objectives of the policy of national reconciliation and would meet the urgent needs of our country.

The session referred the draft plan and the state budget for 1988 to the Revolutionary Council for final approval (*KNT*, March 17, 1988).

A Session of the Council of Ministers

An extraordinary session of the Council of Ministers was held on March 15, to review the plan and budget implementation in the current year (ending March 19, 1988) and consider the draft of the Socio-economic development plan and state budget for the next Afghan year. Sultan Ali Keshtmand Prime Minister of the RA presided over the meeting. Mahboubullah Kushani, President of the State Committee for Planning and Mohammad Kabir, Minister of Finance presented reports on the development plan and state budget respectively. The issues before the council were unanimously endorsed by the members of the cabinet (*KNT*, 16 March).

New Projects

The permanent commission on private investments of the executive committee of the Council of Ministers met under the chairmanship of Syed Amanuddin Amin, first Deputy Prime Minister. The meeting approved 37 projects proposed in the private sector in the sphere of light industries chemicals, metal, foodstuffs, construction and carpet weaving (Kabul Times, 27 March).

Agreement Signed

An agreement between the governments of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union on reinforcing the banks of Oxus river and building a harbour in Hairatan was signed in Kabul. Hairatan which is one of the important ports in Afghanistan is equipped with every facility with the Soviet assistance. However the river banks have been eaten away due to continuous erosion and there is no wharf for loading ships. The Soviet Union has rendered a credit of 15 million roubles for the project (*KNT*, 9 March).

In the Afghan capital a cooperation agreement between Moscow and Kabul was signed today. The agreement is more comprehensive as compared to the agreement of cooperation reached between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan in 1987. According to the agreement the Soviet Republics and their Youth Organisations and the trade unions will extend help to the Kabul Municipal Committee, Youth Organisation and other social associations (*Radio Moscow*, 15 March).

The Chelyabinsk province of RSFSR signed an agreement on June 17, 1987 with Kabul province on direct cooperation. Based on the agreement signed, the Chelyabinsk province will assist Kabul province in the spheres of agriculture, construction, public health, education, transport and communication through supply of goods equipment as well as training Afghan cadres and accepting children from Kabul province for rest and recreation in Chelyabinsk province. The agreement also entails party and state delegations (*KNT*, 9 March).

Protocols Signed

A direct economic cooperation protocol between Laghman and Kunar provinces and Minsk province of Byelorussian-SSR was signed on March 7 in Kabul (*KNT*, 8 March).

A protocol on expansion of direct cooperation between Ningarhar province of Afghanistan and Orenburg province of RSFSR was signed on March 23, in Kabul. The protocol was signed by the governor of Ningarhar and by the first deputy chairman of the state committee for agricultural industries of Orenburg province (*Kabul Times*, 24 March).

A protocol on expansion of direct cooperation between Kabul and Moscow cities in socio-economic spheres was signed on March 16, in Kabul. The protocol was signed from the Afghan side by Adena Sangin, Kabul Mayor and from the Soviet side by the chairman of the executive committee of the Council of People's Deputies of Moscow city (*KNT*, 17 March).

A protocol on economic and cultural cooperation between Kunduz province of Afghanistan and Kurghan Tepa province of Tajik-SSR

was signed in Dushanbe recently. Under the protocol Kurghan Tepa will give Kunduz machinery and equipment for road construction, irrigation, communications, power, medical equipment and stationary worth 277,600 roubles. The protocol was signed by Kunduz party and government official during a visit to Tajikistan recently (*KNT*, 12 March).

Economic Assistance under Direct Cooperation Programme

29 republics and regions of the Soviet Union have reached agreements with as many Afghan provinces on direct trade union links. Gennady Yanayev, Secretary of the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions said that we are proceeding from all-round support for Afghan trade unions to mutually beneficial cooperation. The direct contacts between Soviet and Afghan trade unions in different regions, he said, will cover all social and economic aspects of their activities. Among other things they will step up exchanges of experience in resolving production problems promoting technical innovation and amateur talent pursuits and organising socialist emulation drives to exceed planned targets. More scholarships will be offered for Afghan students at the higher school of the trade union movement in Moscow as well as at courses in Afghanistan. A total of 150 Afghan trade union activists will come to the USSR next summer for rest and medical treatment and 2,000 Afghan children will spend their vacations at Soviet young pioneer camps. The Central Council of Soviet trade unions will help the Central Council of Afghanistan Trade Unions with modern equipment for club houses and other cultural facilities (*KNT*, 5 March).

The delegation of the Byelorussian-SSR led by Boris A. Makeichevko, First Deputy Chairman of the state planning committee of the republic called on Mohammad Aslam Watanyar, Minister of Communications and Sher Bahadur Minister of Public Health in Kabul on March 2. The talks focussed on the programme of direct cooperation between Byelorussian-SSR and Laghman and Kunar provinces. The delegation promised to help these provinces in the field of communications and promotion of health facilities (*KNT*, 3 March).

A group of specialists and physicians have arrived in Samangan from Tashkent on the basis of the direct cooperation protocol signed by the two regions. The group will assist in construction of Samangan-Tashkent Friendship Park installation of automatic telephone exchange and medical aid in Samangan, said a spokesman of the provincial party committee (*KNT*, 13 March).

The high ranking delegation of Orenburg province of the Soviet Union led by the First Deputy Chairman of the Agricultural Industries Department of Orenburg-SSR who is in Kabul to render material and technical assistance to Jalalabad Irrigation Complex held meetings with

Ghulam Farouq Kabakiwal Minister of Agriculture and Land Reforms and Ahmad Shah Surkhabi, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources economic assistance of Orenburg-SSR in the spheres of agriculture and irrigation to Ningharhar province (*KNT*, 21 March).

In continuation of direct cooperation between Gronai province of Byelorussian-SSR and the Afghan province of Laghman, a Soviet caravan of consumer goods arrived here on March 25. A spokesman of the executive committee of the council of peoples deputies of Laghman province reported that 52,980 garments, 6,540 mattresses, 18,000 dozens of matches, 84,800 cakes of soap 33 tons salt, 230 tons of wheat, 1,400 radio sets, 520 beds and 2,300 curtains were delivered to Laghman province as Soviet gratis aid and distributed to the families of the martyrs of the April Revolution and other needy families (Kabul Times, 27 March).

The delegation of the Armenian SSR led by the deputy chairman of agriculture committee and Minister of the Republic met on March 24, the first Vice President of the State Committee for Planning. The delegation of the Republic has come to assist Ghor and Logar provinces and to decide on the future aspects of cooperation. 56 water pumps, an artificial insemination unit, two drilling units for digging wells and a number of agricultural implements have already been donated to these provinces. Based on the protocol signed in Kabul the assistance will increase in future. Also the Armenian SSR will cooperate in training cadres of the above provinces (Kabul Times, 27 March).

The head of the Byelorussian-SSR delegation while talking to newsmen in Kabul, said that under the protocols agreed upon, the Byelorussian Republic will assist Laghman and Kunar provinces in agriculture, communications, education and public health. In addition to the assistance rendered already, Byelorussian-SSR would supply improved seeds, fertilizers medical and technical instruments and stationary worth 363,000 roubles to Kunar and 434,000 roubles to Laghman province. The assistance would be resumed in 1989 and continued till 1995 (*KNT*, 6 March).

Soviet Economic Aid

The Soviet Union is supplying Afghanistan with more equipment to develop natural resources. At the Soviet border port of Permin (ph) preparations are underway to ship powerful installations which will be used for exploration of oil and gas. Besides technical assistance given under bilateral agreements, various Soviet Republic and cities send food and consumer goods to the neighbouring country. In December 1987, more than 50 million Roubles worth of such commodities were given to

the Afghan peoples free of cost (Radio Moscow: 11 March 1988).

200 tons of relief goods from Tashkent city of USSR valued at 260 million roubles arrived in Samangan province. The goods were distributed to 10,000 needy families. Also a Samangan-Tashkent friendship retail store has been opened recently with an initial capital of Afghanis two million in Aibak city. The store sells goods 50 per cent cheaper than market price (*KNT*, 12 March 1988).

The second caravan of goods donated by Mari province of Turkmen-SSR arrived in Badghis on March 2. This assistance is in line with the programme of direct cooperation between the two provinces. The goods arrived include tractors, consumer goods, agricultural implements and stationary and were handed over to the authorities of Badghis (*KNT*, 3 March 1988).

The first caravan of relief goods of the Maldavian-SSR arrived in Ghazni on March 1. The goods included, tractors, agricultural equipments, electronics and other goods (*KNT*, 2 March 1988).

Exports

During the current Afghan year (begun March 21, 1987) over 411,000 Afghan Karakul pelts were exported and earned over 7,314,000 dollars. The main market for Afghan karakul pelts is London, 362,504 karakul pelts were sold in the current year and earned 6,437,570 dollars. Also three sales in Leningard and one in Leipzig earned 770,937 dollars and 105,740 dollars respectively. During the years of revolution the government has rendered a variety of assistance to karakul breeders including setting up veterinary clinics, arranging for karakul purchase and sorting and training specialist in the trade (*KNT*, 10 March 1988).

The Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Fariab province purchased karakul pelts, dry fruits, medicinal herbs and handicrafts costing over 3,984 million Afghanis during the last Afghan year from national traders and private entrepreneurs of the province. A department source said, that 950,000 karakul pelts, 750,000 square metre of carpets and long napped carpets, 200,000 intestines and 15,380 tons of wool, raisins, walnuts, sesame, licorise, pistachio, cumin seeds etc have been exported (Kabul Times: 25 March 1988).

Over 500 tons of wool have so far been collected by Wool Export Enterprise of the Ministry of Commerce and is ready for export to the Soviet Union. A spokesman of the enterprise said that over 500 tons of wool were exported to the Soviet Union last year as per contracts earning 22,800,000 dollars. Due to the increase in the price of wool in the world markets the export this year to the Soviet Union would fetch 41,000,000 dollars. The price per ton of wool is now 8,350 dollars. The wool is collected by agencies of the enterprise from Qandahar, Herat,

Mazar-e-Sharif and Kunduz provinces (Kabul Times: 26 March 1988).

Construction

The Prefabricated Housing Complex has planned to raise its housing construction capacity from 50,000 sq metres to 100,000 sq metres in 1988 using the 3.197 million roubles credit of the Soviet Union. Under an agreement reached in 1987 between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, the latter has stepped up supplies of construction machinery and equipments and also sends experts to the prefabricated Housing in Kabul (*KNT*, 6 March 1988).

The Housing supply Enterprise of construction Ministry has commissioned two residential blocks. The construction costs a total of 86 million Afghanis (*KNT*, 2 March, 1988).

Transport

Ariana Afghan Airlines carried 217,000 passengers and 6801 tons of cargo on its domestic and international flights in the period between March 1987–February 1988. A spokesman of Civil Aviation Ministry said that the Airlines had carried 6825 passengers on its international flights and 156,990 passengers on the domestic flights, which is 18 per cent more than the plan and shows a 28 per cent increase in cargo transport and 18 per cent increase in passenger transport over the same period in 1987-87. Thirteen experts of the Soviet Union and 250 Afghan experts are working in the modern workshop of the Kabul airport. The Civil Aviation Ministry has 12 planes in its fleet for domestic and international flights (*KNT*, 12 March, 1988).

Coupon Stores

Steps have been taken for improving supply of coupon articles in the coming year. A source attached to the food procurement department of the Ministry of Commerce said that according to the plan 34,000 tons of vegetable oil, 140,000 tons of sugar, 235,575 tons of flour, 2,000 tons of milk powder and stationary too will be supplied through the coupon outlets in the new year. It is also planned to establish in the coming year 10 coupon stores in Kabul city and 40 coupon outlets in the provinces. There are at present 4,00,000 coupon holders throughout the country and 11 coupon outlets in Kabul city and 75 in the provinces (*KNT*, 14 March, 1988).

Agriculture

The Central Council of the Peasant Union Cooperative held its 8th plenum at the Ariana Hotel, Kabul. The basic report of the plenum was

read out by Khudainoor Bawar, President of the Central Council of Peasants Union Cooperation. The plenum also discussed organizational matters and necessary decisions were taken. Niaz Mohammad Momand, evaluated the work of the plenum and specified the tasks of the members of the cooperative (*KNT*, 7 March, 1988).

Kabul

Agricultural production in Kabul province totalled 5,200,220 tons in the spring and autumn of 1987 according to the Agriculture and Land Reforms Department, of this 85,535 tons were wheat, barley and corn, 212 tons oil crops, 108,802 tons vegetables 304,597 tons fruits and 20,870 tons other crops. According to Ghulam Jailani head of the agriculture and land reforms department of Kabul province, the department has lent agricultural services through its 10 extensions and 4 tractors units. It distributed 590 tons of improved wheat seeds, 10,582 tons of chemical fertilizers, and 7,389,490 Afghanis worth of herbicides and pesticides to individual peasants and agricultural cooperatives in eight districts of the province. Besides cereals and vegetables the cooperatives have grown grapes also 7,360 tons grapes have been exported through five cooperatives, during the current Afghan year (begun 21 March 1987). Jailani added that following the declaration of the policy of NR, the department has provided all round assistance to repatriate peasants. The peasants also received Soviet gratis-aid of 600 tons of chemical fertilizers in this period (*KNT*, 5 March, 1988).

Ghazni

Over 90,000 hectares were cultivated with wheat and other cereals last year in Ghazni province. Over 63,000 hectares were cultivated with wheat, 4,550 hectares with barley, corn and other cereals, and 8,520 hectares with potatoes, and fruits. Chemicals, seeds and fertilizers valued at over two million Afghanis were distributed to peasants in the province (Kabul Times: 26 March, 1988).

Paktiya

1,516 tons of fertilizer and 150 tons of improved wheat seeds costing Afghanis 5,800,000 were distributed to members of peasant cooperatives and individual peasants of the Paktiya province in the last spring and autumn sowing campaigns. 460 tons of fertilizer and 22 tons of improved wheat seeds have been distributed through four peasants cooperatives during the last two months. According to plan, in the current spring sowing 10,609 jeribs will be cultivated with wheat, barley and other cereals (*KNT*, 21 March, 1988).

Parwan

In the current spring sowing campaign, an area of 42,450 hectares will be cultivated with wheat, barley, corn and other cereals and vegetables in Parwan province. A source of the agricultural and land reforms department of Parwan province said that 6,264 tons of fertilizer and 100 tons of wheat seeds costing Afghanis 7.3 million and pesticides and insecticides costing 6 million Afghanis will be distributed as credit through the agricultural development bank to peasants during the spring sowing campaign this year (*KNT*, 21 March, 1988).

77 tractors, 1,429 tons of fertilizers and 192 tons of improved wheat seeds valued at over Afghanis 48,716,000 were distributed last Afghan year (ending March 19, 1988) to the peasants by the agricultural development bank in Kunduz province. Fertilizer and tractor loans of over 33,720,000 Afghanis were repaid last year by the peasants of Kunduz. The figure shows that the loan repayment plan of the bank was over fulfilled by 37% (*Kabul Times*: 26 March, 1988).

Balkh

Nahr-e-Shahi irrigation canal in Balkh province was cleared and repaired through voluntary work carried out by 1,200 peasants. A spokesman for the irrigation department of the province said that canal irrigates 32,000 hectares of land over 1,000 forks and 1,000 pairs of boots supplied by the Soviet Union were also distributed among the peasants at the end of the work (*Kabul Times*: 24 March, 1988).

Samangan

3,720 hectares of land were levelled and ploughed last Afghan year (ending March 19, 1988) by the vehicles and tractors of the mechanized agricultural station in Samangan province. The yields of 4,540 jeribs (five jeribs equal to one hectare) were also harvested using combine machines in the province. 1,980,000 Afghanis was earned from the above activities (*Kabul Times*: 26 March, 1988).

5 — YOUTH, EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Youth

President Najibullah received on March 9, the Secretaries and Heads of the provincial committees of the YOA in Kabul. Najib spoke in the meeting on the tasks of the DYOA committees and organisations in the improvement of education facilities, the growth and development of national economy, the joining of youth to armed forces and realisation of NR policy. The DYOA activists set forth their problems. Najib

gave necessary instructions to the concerned authorities in tackling the problems of the DYOA Provincial Committees. Farid Ahmad Mazdak, alternate member of Politburo of the PDPA CC and first secretary of the DYOA Central Committee, promised every effort at realisation of NR policy (*KNT*, 12 March).

Plenum of the DYOA CC on tasks and responsibilities of organisations of the youth in the process of NR was held on March 14, in Kabul. Farid Ahmad Mazdak, alternate member of Politburo of the PDPA CC and first secretary of the DYOA CC, read out the resolution of the Politburo of the PDPA CC, the undelayable tasks in the political and party leadership of the youths. The report dealt with improving the educational conditions and the military forces and realisation of NR policy (*KNT*, 15 March).

An extraordinary plenum of the Kabul city DYOA committee was held on March 23. A number of important decisions on organizational matters were taken at the plenum (*Kabul Times*, 26 March).

Members of the Democratic Youth Organization and the students of Kabul city on the eve of launching of new academic year have sent messages to a number of world leaders about a political settlement to the situation around Afghanistan. A source of the DYOA has reported that messages have been addressed to the World Leaders, including UN Secretary General, Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement, the Indian Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Soviet Leader Mr. Gorbachev, US President Mr. Reagan and Islamic Conference Organisation (*Radio Kabul*, 7 March).

Youth Organised

Over 270 children were organised in the current Afghan year (ending March 21, 1988) in the pioneer's organisation of Baghlan province. About 440 pioneers are organised in the DYOA (*KNT*, 12 March).

Over 1,680 youth were organised last Afghan year (ended March 19, 1988) in 27 primary organisations, 12 groups and eight departmental organisations of the DYOA in Baghlan province. A spokesman of the DYOA provincial committee said that over 6,000 youth are now mobilized in 184 primary organisations, 44 departmental organisations and 190 groups of the DYOA. 815 literacy courses with a strength of 14,870 students are now functioning under the DYOA provincial committees (*Kabul Times*, 26 March).

Youth Joined Military

576 youth have been registered recently in the military commissariat of Qandahar province. 1,838 youth, who were in military service voluntarily joined the armed forces of the province during the last year (*Kabul Times*, 27 March).

Education

President Najibullah attended a gathering of students of Habibia Lycee, held to mark the beginning of the new academic year. Addressing the gathering of teachers and students Najibullah congratulated them and all students of schools, universities and staff throughout the country on the new academic year. The principal of Habibia Lycee representing the staff pledged to spare no effort for the development of education, realisation of NR policy and sound upbringing of the children. Similar functions were held in the province. Speeches were made on the occasion explaining the gains of NR policy and the statements of President Najibullah and M.S. Gorbachev Secretary General of the CPSU CC (*KNT*, 7 March).

President Najibullah said one hundred and six new schools have been opened in the country during the period of one year from the proclamation of the NR policy. During this period more than 1,908 children of the refugees who returned to the country have been admitted to the schools. He announced that the government has earmarked an amount of four billion Afghanis as assistance to the students during the current year. In this way, every family would get education annually, books and stationery would be provided free of cost to every student (*Radio Kabul*, 5 March).

In Kabul University 37 scholars have applied for doctoral programme this year. The university offers doctoral degrees in Philosophy, Modern Afghan History, World History, Pashto Language and Literature, Physics, Geology, Hydrometereology, Agronomy, National Economic Planning, Psychology, Public Law, Dari Language and Literature, Journalism and Political Economy. Each candidate will have an academic advisor from among Kabul University professors and foreign instructors. Also each candidate will be provided with an opportunity to continue his or her research programme abroad (*KNT*, 2 March).

The Afghan Minister of Education, Abdul Samad Qayumi spoke about the programmes of the new academic year. He said that the new academic year has started on March 6, 1988, under the slogan, "Peace for your home". The employees of the Ministry were assigned to conduct explanatory work among students and teachers on the policy of NR initiated by the PDPA and the government. The Ministry of Education also started the new academic year with teaching and study of the statements of President Najibullah and M.S. Gorbachev. Providing further educational, training, scientific and other facilities, better conditions would be brought about for the students this year. He further said that on the basis of the resolution of the politburo of the PDPA CC free breakfast or coupons equivalent to its cost, uniform footwear and

stationery will be given to students of primary schools. This measure will undoubtedly have a positive and fruitful impact on family budgets. After passing experimental stage, the 10-grade system was amended to an 11-grade system in 1986 by adding a grade in the primary state. This system was implemented in the 1st, 2nd, 8th and 9th grades during the last two years. In 1988 the 9th and 10th grades are also included in the system. The results of the 11 class system have been satisfactory and showed that it was formulated in accordance with the socio-economic objective conditions of the country. Over 12,000 eligible children have been admitted in the first grade. There are 1,308 schools functioning throughout the country with a strength of 776,000 students and 22,471 teachers, with the establishment of 42 new schools will increase to 1,350. Also over 12,000 students graduated in 1987. Due to the increase in the number of students in general education schools, this figure will rise to 18,000 in 1988. Around 2.5 billion Afghanis are annually allocated from the budget of the government for educational purposes. This year 120 schools and educational institutions have been built at a cost of 500 million Afghanis. 95 schools will be built in the new Afghan year, at a cost of 500 million Afghanis, to accommodate 58,000 students. With the establishment of well-equipped laboratories and distribution of audio-visual aides, tangible improvement will occur in the teaching system of schools. The assistance of the Soviet Union in supply of laboratory equipment, teaching materials and other schools equipment is of immense importance and we appreciate it. This assistance runs to 7.5 million Afghanis (*KNT*, 7 March).

No Communist Ideology Taught in Afghanistan

The Afghan Education Minister has dismissed a VOA report that education with regard to the so-called communist ideologies is being given to Afghan students. VOA had reported that all the text books in educational institutions of Afghanistan were full of communist ideas, lessons in Russian language and courses of Marxism and Leninism were also included in the teaching programmes. The Afghan Education Minister in an interview with a daily in Moscow pointed out that much importances being given to Quranic teachings and theology in the text books. Afghan students are reading the books written by English, French, and Federal Republic of German authors. Only two per cent students are willing receiving education in Russian language while 97% are getting education in English. He said that so far as the Marxism and Leninism is concerned, it had not been included in the education programme neither in the past nor at present (*Radio Moscow*, 11 March).

Health

A session of the general assembly of Afghan Red Crescent Society was held on March 19 at the Mailmapal Hotel at which activities of the last four years of the society were evaluated (Kabul Times: 22 March, 1988).

Over 3,800 patients were admitted and given treatment this year (ended March 19, 1988) in Wazir Akbar Khan hospital. Over 10,000 persons with injuries were attended to in the hospital. Also 1,470 orthopaedic cases were treated and X-ray and other clinical services to 55,000 patients. The physicians of the hospital carried out in this period over 2,500 successful operations. The hospital has 250 beds. Its orthopaedic department was recently equipped with modern facilities by the USSR (KNT, 17 March, 1988).

Through voluntary mass work, the employees of border detachments of Waza Khwa of Pakiya province have built and commissioned a 25 bed hospital (KNT, 7 March, 1988).

Among the internationalist friends of Afghanistan assist Afghan people in different ways is a medical team from Cuba serving in Kabul for the past six months. A group of eight members arrived in Afghanistan six months ago and would stay here for two years to serve Afghan people (KNT, 15 March, 1988).

6 — SOCIAL AND CULTURE

The Afghan President Najibullah attended the Khatme-Quran ceremony in Dilkusha Palace on February 29. The Khatme-Quran was held in connection with the Chehlum of the great Pukhtoon leader late Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. The khatem was also attended by a number of members of the Party's Central Committee, Council of Ministers, Ulema, Spirituals, Students, Teachers, Pukhtoons living in Kabul and the revolutionary Pukhtoon Poet, Ajmal Khattak. Speaking at the meeting, President Najibullah threw light on the social and political aspects of the personality of late Bacha Khan (Radio Kabul, 29 February).

President Najibullah took part on March 9 in a gala function in Stor Palace Kabul marking March 8, International Women's Day. The function was attended by Sultan Ali Keshtmand, Party leaders leading bodies of various political parties and prominent public figures. Massouma Asmati Wardak, chairperson of Afghanistan Women's Council spoke about the historic significance of March 8 in the struggle of women of the world for equality of rights. She also presented a report on the work of AWC in achieving national reconciliation and peace in the country (KNT, 10 March).

67th anniversary of the signing of the first Afghan Soviet friendship treaty was celebrated in a ceremony on March 1 in Kabul (KNT, 2 March).

A delegation from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees visited a reception camp for the refugee coming back situated at Tarkham. The delegation also visited villages Behsud and Monandra districts and talked to the members of the families recently returned to their homes. Later the delegation also visited peace camp of Jalalabad city (VOA, 3 March).

Services of Da Afghanistan Bank

The Da Afghanistan Bank announced recently that the banks of the Republic of Afghanistan are ready to purchase the foreign currencies of the repatriates at market rates. Basir Ranjbar President of the Da Afghanistan Bank explains:—

- Brokers in Peshawar and other cities of Pakistan, Iran and the Gulf countries are exploiting the ignorance of refugees and trying to purchase their currencies at low rates in exchange for Afghanis. This harms our compatriots as follows:
- According to the provisions of the regulation on currency deals in the Republic of Afghanistan, person coming from abroad can bring with him only Afghanis 2,000. Therefore, if our compatriots change their currencies outside and bring Afghanis inside the country, they will certainly face problems according to this regulation.
- The enemies of Afghanistan have also printed and circulated counterfeit banknotes to sabotage the economy of our country.
- It is quite possible that while purchasing the foreign currencies of Afghan repatriates, the brokers may give them counterfeit Afghan notes which obviously would not be accepted here.
- Our compatriots abroad can deposit their money in the agencies of the Afghan Banks in Karachi, Peshawar and Chaman of Pakistan, in Hamburg of FRG, New York and London and collect it on arrival here.
- Also, our banks have established direct links with a number of foreign banks like, first national City Bank, and Chase Manhattan in New York, American Express Company, New York and San Francisco, Deutch Bank in Hamburg, Banks in Frankfurt, London, Switzerland, Paris, Indo-China, Abu Dhabi and the Gulf Bank of Kuwait.
- Our compatriots can deposit their money in these foreign banks and they or their relatives in Kabul can receive their Afghanis equivalent to their deposits (KNT, 14 March, 1988).

Human Rights Situation

The United Nations has said that the human right situation is improving in Afghanistan but reports received from reliable sources reveal that violence is committed against political prisoners and they are being killed. The UN report welcomes understanding between Kabul government and Red Cross allowing the World Body to inspect jails and talk to the prisoners in privacy (VOA, 3 March).

Sources of Afghan Mujahideen in Quetta have claimed that from Gaus 30 to Dalv 25th this year, the agents of the Kabul puppet regime have executed more than 400 political prisoners in Pul-e-Charkhi jail of Kabul. A Mujahideen commander said that on Dalv 20, twenty nine political prisoners were executed (VIRA, 13 March).

At the call of the Afghan Women Council, President Najibullah has signed a decree on another amnesty on the occasion of the International Women's Day. The decree also provides for reducing prison terms for some categories of prisoners (Radio Moscow, 8 March).

Protest

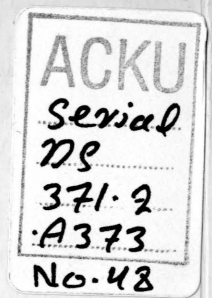
The Italian Foreign Ministry has lodged a formal protest against the trial of an Italian journalist in Kabul against the award of seven years imprisonment to him. The statement says that his trial was held behind closed doors and he was not given any chance to receive aid or proper defence on behalf of the Italian consulate (VOA, 18 March).

Culture — New Year Celebrations

On the eve of Afghan New Year, variety entertainment programme called Tamasha, which include Music, satire and skits was organised on March 14, in the ballroom of Mailma Pal Hotel by the Art and Literature Department of Radio-TV (KNT, 19 March).

To welcome Afghan New Year, the Radio-TV have prepared special entertainment programmes which are scheduled to be broadcast on the new year eve (beginning March 20, 1988). "Nawroz and Reconciliation", "Nawroz and Nationalities", "Spring and National Reconciliation", "Peasants" and "The Voice of Soldier", will be broadcast by Radio Afghanistan (KNT, 19 March).

To welcome the new year, an exhibition of work of artists of Balkh province was opened on Sunday. 126 works including Paintings, Drawings, Calligraphy, Engraving and Sculpture are on display at the exhibition which will be open for five days (Kabul Times. 24 March).



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